



THE INDEPENDENT

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THE COMPLETE SPORTS CALENDAR FOR 1999



Love, death and dishonour

REVIEW FRONT

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW MEDIA

12 Britons kidnapped in Yemen

BY KIM SENGUPTA

TWELVE BRITISH tourists were ambushed and taken hostage in Yemen yesterday by armed tribesmen.

The party was among 17 Western tourists travelling in a convoy of 15 vehicles when they were attacked on the road to Aden by about 10 tribesmen using automatic rifles.

During an exchange of fire between the attackers and policemen escorting the holidaymakers, one British tourist and a Yemeni guide managed to escape in one of the vehicles. They are believed to have reached the town of Mawdiyah in Abyan province, and alerted the security forces.

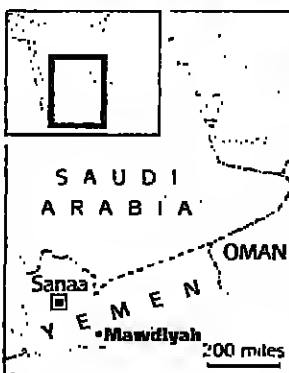
The other 16 tourists, including two Americans and two Australians, were abducted by the raiders and driven off into Abyan, as police and soldiers began to search the area.

Security officials confirmed the kidnappings but could not provide any details. There has been no report of any ransom demand.

The abduction brings the number of Westerners held hostage in Yemen to 20. The Bani Dhabyan tribe are holding four Germans, three women and a man, hostage in Marib province, 100 miles north-east of the capital, Sanaa.

Tribesmen in Yemen have often kidnapped foreigners to press the government and oil companies working in the country to meet demands such as improving infrastructure. They shut more schools, hospitals, telephone lines and roads. Hostages tend to be released unharmed.

The Foreign Office said last



night it was in touch with the Yemeni government and urgently seeking clarification of what happened. A spokesman said: "We are taking all measures necessary and it is our top priority to ensure the safe and swift return of the hostages."

He said: "We are in close touch with the Yemen authorities in Sanaa and London and we are seeking clarification about the incident."

The trip was organised by a tour company which was last night trying to contact the families of the missing holidaymakers in Britain. Staff from the British embassy in Sanaa are expected to travel to Abyan province today.

The holidaymakers are believed to be on a desert safari and were on their way from the town of Habbani to Aden when they were kidnapped. A Foreign Ministry official in the Yemeni capital said the terrain where the tourists disappeared was extremely inhospitable and barren and there were obvious fears for their safety.

In October 1997 Henry Thompson, a 33-year-old British aid worker, was kid-

napped by tribesmen. Mr Thompson is a specialist in water projects who had worked briefly for Japan International Co-operation Agency, was held for 18 days in the mountains of northern Yemen. He was released safely after negotiations between the tribesman and the Yemeni government.

He was snatched along with his driver, Mohammed Abdul Zabyan, by men from the Bani Zabyan tribe as they drove along a busy main road 45 miles south of Sanaa. He was then taken to a tribal stronghold where government control is very weak.

Negotiations between the government and his captors, who demanded a road, water supply and a clinic for their district, began almost immediately.

During his captivity Mr Thompson wrote a letter which was released by fax from his kidnappers. It read: "We are very comfortable, well-fed and the people are courteous."

Most kidnappings of foreigners in Yemen have been resolved with government promises of cash or a present to tribal leaders such as a car. The Yemeni government believes that many kidnappings are inspired by the political opposition, with financial backing from Saudi Arabia.

Yemen is keen to play down the abduction of foreigners, fearing that it will frighten off future tourists.

The economy received a massive blow when Saudi Arabia expelled 850,000 Yemeni workers in 1990 because it felt Yemen was too friendly to Iraq. The annual per head income is less than £300.



Iraqi workers constructing a monument to President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad yesterday

Fahel Kheiber/Reuters

Iraq fires missiles at US jets

JUST 10 days after the United States and Britain halted air strikes against Iraq, Baghdad fired missiles at US aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq yesterday. The Americans fired back, killing four Iraqis.

The attack came despite a four-night air offensive intended to diminish Iraq's ability to hit back at Allied forces.

President Bill Clinton said America would carry on patrolling the skies over Iraq, de-

spite the threat to its aircraft.

"Our pilots have the authority to protect themselves if they are attacked. They took appropriate action today in responding to Iraq's actions," he said. "We will continue to enforce the no-fly zones."

According to the US Department of Defense, Iraqi air defence forces fired three surface-to-air missiles at US F-16s

over northern Iraq. "There was an aggressive Iraqi action against US fighter aircraft in support of Operation Northern Watch," said a Pentagon spokesman.

"Our aircraft responded within normal rules of engagement. They took evasive action and then fired anti-radar missiles and precision-guided bombs at the Iraqi sites. US F-15s and electronic warfare aircraft were also involved. Many hostile formations vi-

olated Iraqi air space coming from Turkey," said an Iraqi military communiqué. "They approached our air defences, which bravely and capably intercepted and forced [the planes] to flee, returning to the bases of evil and aggression in Turkey."

The aircraft returned and "fired their criminal missiles towards one of our positions", it said. "Our air defences forced them to flee... These aggressive acts led to the martyrdom

of four of our brave fighters and injuries [to another] seven."

The US aircraft, based at Incirlik in Turkey, were patrolling the no-fly zone established over northern Iraq in 1991 after the end of the Gulf War to protect the Kurds. As well as Kurdish-held territory, the northern zone covers Mosul, an important city and military base for Iraq, which was a target of the Allied attacks earlier this month.

Julie Flint, Review, page 4

Cunningham fails to stop the feuding

THE GOVERNMENT attempted to repair the damage of its worst week in office yesterday with a stern warning to ministers to end the in-fighting that accompanied the resignation of Peter Mandelson.

The Cabinet's "enforcer", Jack Cunningham, said anonymous and unauthorised briefings by spin-doctors in recent weeks had clouded the message of Labour's key manifesto policies on jobs, health and education.

Yet as he sought to draw a line under the Mandelson affair, speculation at Westminster centred on Tony Blair's failure to appoint a replacement for

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

Geoffrey Robinson, who quit as paymaster-general last week after he was revealed as the source of Mr Mandelson's loan. Commentators regard it as highly unusual that he has not been replaced.

Geoff Hoon, Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department, was widely expected to take up the job, despite objections from Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, that he needed him to steer crucial legal reforms through the Commons.

The appointment of Mr Hoon, a well-known Blairite,



Hoon: Difficult position

may also be opposed by the Gordon Brown camp. He could be seen as a replacement for Stephen Byers - the former chief secretary to the treasury

who replaced Mr Mandelson as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry - as the Prime Minister's eyes and ears in the Chancellor's department.

Party sources claimed yesterday that Mr Blair may want to downgrade the role of paymaster-general or incorporate it into another minister's portfolio in a deliberate attempt to curb the influence of Mr Brown. As Mr Robinson received no government salary, it may also be too costly to fill his post this year.

In what was seen as a clear shot across the bows of Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press spokesman, who has been accused of leaking infor-

mation about Mr Mandelson, Mr Cunningham said yesterday that unauthorised briefings "ought to stop". He admitted for the first time that there were ministers who wanted to "conduct their own agenda" even if it conflicted with the aims of the Government. "It cannot be allowed to continue and we have to put an end to it," he said.

"There have been briefings from time to time which have been damaging to the Government. Collectively, unauthorised briefings have caused trouble for the Government, are causing trouble, and ought to stop."

Mr Cunningham's comments

are the most explicit indication yet that the Chancellor may have to fire Mr Whelan.

The Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, Malcolm Bruce, said of the Government's disarray: "You cannot have effective government by faction. If Mr Blair cannot control a Treasury press officer, how can he hope to run the country?"

John Redwood, the shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, added: "There is a civil war at the very top of this government. The Prime Minister needs to return from his holiday and assert his authority."

Spin culture, page 2

Gangs smuggle 4,000 migrants a month to UK

ORGANISED GANGS are smuggling up to 4,000 illegal immigrants and asylum-seekers into Britain every month, according to the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS).

Officers are alarmed at how the gangs are moving into the illegal trade and exploiting the hopes of many refugees of finding a better life in the UK.

Some 20 gangs charge the

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

migrants from £250 to £15,000. The more expensive "packages" include the services of a solicitor to assist in claiming benefits, "safe" houses, and work in restaurants, farms and backstreet "sweet shops".

The NCIS's recently formed Organised Immigration Crime

Section has also detected a growing market in forged and counterfeit documents. An NCIS spokesman said: "There is a UK eod of the operation. You tend to get packages - people will pay for transportation and advice on benefits and approaching the Home Office."

"There is a system of 'safe' houses for them to stay until they are distributed to other

parts of the country where they will be found work."

Details of the rackets given by NCIS officers to *The Independent* provide the most comprehensive picture yet of clandestine immigration. The NCIS estimates that between 2,000 and 4,000 people are smuggled into Britain every month. The top four gangs are bringing in up to 250 people

each month, they say. Lorry drivers are paid about £500 to smuggle in a load of 20 people, according to police sources.

Home Office figures show that 8,000 people were caught entering Britain illegally in the past year - less than a third of the lowest NCIS estimate. A further 7,000 were caught coming into Britain hidden in lorries. The scale of organised

smuggling has become so severe that MI5 and MI6 have been assisting authorities.

The three main nationalities of organised smugglers are the Turks, the Chinese and Asians from the sub-continent - mainly Indians, but some Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. The biggest single group being smuggled are Kosovo Albanians.

£250 for 'new life', page 4

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Officials abandoned the sea search for a British Olympic yachtsman
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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

British wrestling is back! With all the subtlety of a forearm smash

TELEVISION TAKES UP THE HEIRS OF MICK MC MANUS AND GIANT HAYSTACKS

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WITH OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, JAVISHA MURRAY, MARK STELL, ROBERT FISK, IERIN BLACKBURN, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID ARONOVITCH, ANNE MULLOY, THOMAS SUTHER, AILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDRIAS WHITLAM SMITH

Political spin culture here to stay

JACK CUNNINGHAM's cloncall yesterday for an end to "unauthorised briefings" of journalists by ministerial advisers will raise a hollow laugh among many at Westminster who have become used to a daily diet of spin and counter-spin.

Every minister now has a special adviser, the euphemism for spin-doctor, individuals paid with public money to perform an essentially party political service. From Agriculture to the Foreign Office, each Whitehall department has one, sometimes two, political advisers ready to rebut the claims of the Tories and advance the Government's agenda. The American idea of a political aide who aggressively pushes a "line" to journalists worked superbly for Labour in opposition as it harried the Conservatives under John Major.

Tensions between different shadow ministers were known, particularly the unhappiness of the Gordon Brown camp that he had been forced out of the party leadership, but the desperate desire to win the general

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

election meant dissent was negligible. It was only after the Government won its landslide in May 1997 that the cracks began to appear and the hidden factions slowly reasserted themselves.

Some observers now claim that the Blair administration resembles a medieval court, a Camelot where every knight at

the Cabinet round table has his or her jealousies reinforced by their personal henchmen in the form of spin-doctors.

Some, like Charlie Whelan, are so different from their ministers that they can speak the unspeakable. Others, like Joe McCrea, Frank Dobson's adviser, are like pets who resemble their owners and can be relied upon to give you their every thought. Of course, every Cabinet has its divisions, and

special advisers were first established under the Tories as a means of getting their message across more robustly.

But the Conservative advisers were often ineffectual and small in number compared with the professional and slick machine Labour built up, most of whose staff landed jobs in government immediately, often on large salaries that horrified civil servants. The Labour government is also distinguished

with so many career battles and personal feuds that to simplify the issue into Brownites and Blairites is a mistake.

One of the main problems with the spin culture is that each adviser is appointed to an individual minister. As with football managers and their assistants, if the minister loses his job, so does the spinmeister. As a result, they are fiercely loyal breed and, as has been seen most graphically in the Mandelson/Brown divisions, can use the tactics developed against the Opposition to undermine fellow ministers.

The difficulty for Mr Cunningham is that ministers themselves, as well as their charges, are responsible for off-the-record briefings that promote their careers or causes at the expense of colleagues.

Once the spin-doctor genie has been let out, it may prove incredibly difficult to get it back into the bottle. On to paraphrase the Prime Minister's own press secretary, Alastair Campbell, attempts to end the spin cycle may just be "crap, that's C-R-A-P crap."



Charlie Whelan (left) who voices for his master, Gordon Brown Michael Crabtree

THE SPINMEISTERS

ALASTAIR CAMPBELL
Former political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, now Tony Blair's official press secretary. The man whose colourful language and sharp media antennae set the standard for other wannabe spinners.

CHARLIE WHELAN
The Chancellor's spokesman is not a former journalist and so retains healthy disrespect for lobby correspon-

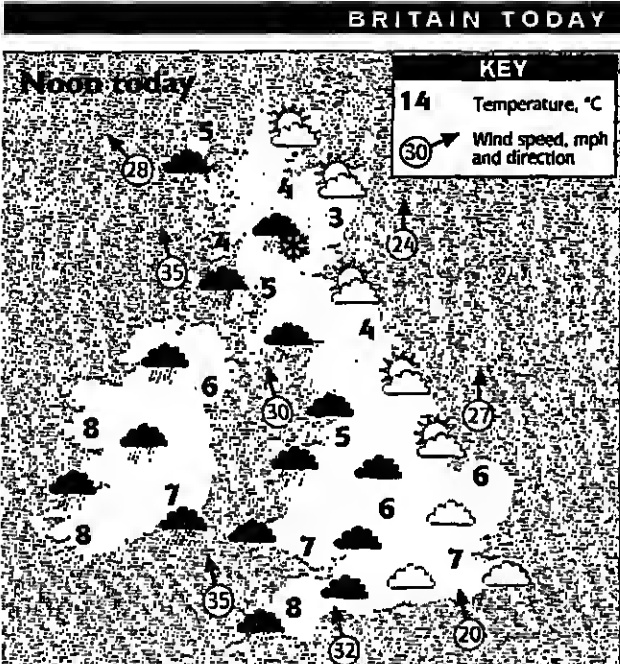
dents. Favourite phrase is "bollocks" - in reply to most media queries.

BENJAMIN WEGG-PROSSER
Peter Mandelson's 26-year-old former aide mirrored his master's use of cunning to plant stories. Gentler approach than most, but still ruthless.

JOE MCCREA
Adviser to Frank Dobson,

the Health Secretary, made his name in opposition as Labour scored hit after hit on the Tories' hospital closures. "Rottweiler" tendencies now subdued.

JOE IRVIN
John Prescott's special adviser is the antithesis of the brash and duplicitous image of New Labour spin-doctors. Quietly effective and does not court lobby journalists.



BRITAIN TODAY

Lighting up	4.05pm	to 8.46am
Belfast	4.05pm	to 8.46am
Birmingham	4.05pm	to 8.46am
Bristol	4.05pm	to 8.46am
Glasgow	4.05pm	to 8.46am
London	4.05pm	to 8.46am
Manchester	4.05pm	to 8.46am
Newcastle	4.05pm	to 8.46am

YESTERDAY

Extremes	Min	Max
Belfast	3.9	9.1
Birmingham	0.5	8.6
Bristol	0.5	8.6
Glasgow	0.5	8.6
London	0.5	8.6
Manchester	0.5	8.6
Newcastle	0.5	8.6

THE WORLD

Europe noon today	Min	Max
Belfast	3.9	9.1
Birmingham	0.5	8.6
Bristol	0.5	8.6
Glasgow	0.5	8.6
London	0.5	8.6
Manchester	0.5	8.6
Newcastle	0.5	8.6

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

Key	Min	Max
Belfast	3.9	9.1
Birmingham	0.5	8.6
Bristol	0.5	8.6
Glasgow	0.5	8.6
London	0.5	8.6
Manchester	0.5	8.6
Newcastle	0.5	8.6

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Key	Min	Max
Belfast	3.9	9.1
Birmingham	0.5	8.6
Bristol	0.5	8.6
Glasgow	0.5	8.6
London	0.5	8.6
Manchester	0.5	8.6
Newcastle	0.5	8.6

Children in prostitution 'not criminals'

THE MAJORITY of child prostitutes should escape prosecution, with police and courts targeting their pimps and customers instead, according to government guidelines released yesterday.

The authorities want to treat children, who are sold for sex, as victims and offer them help rather than punishment. The shift in emphasis comes in a joint Home Office and Department of Health report that said there are child prostitutes in many towns, working on the streets and in flats. It added that child prostitutes often come from local authority homes, families with "severe problems", or are runaways befriended by pimps.

The new guidelines for the police, social services, probation, courts, and organisations working with young people, stressed that child prostitutes should only be prosecuted in extreme circumstances. Recent studies have suggested the number of children selling their bodies is greatly underestimated and is rising.

Pilot schemes in Nottingham and Wolverhampton involved contacting 125 prostitutes aged from 11 to 18 - four times the number of child prostitutes that had been thought to work in the towns. They led to the prosecution of 22 men and three women for rape, sexual intercourse with a child under 16, kidnapping, assault and living off immoral earnings.

Yesterday's report, "Guid-

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

ance on Children Involved in Prostitution", which has been issued for consultation, said: "There are children involved in prostitution in many parts of Britain. They may not be obvious on the streets. But there will be children being abused through prostitution in rooms and flats in many towns. This is a hidden problem; we do not know how many children are involved. We can, however, be certain this problem exists."

Figures for 1995-96 show that 177 children under the age of 17 were convicted of offences relating to prostitution. A further 207 - including a 12-year-old girl - were cautioned.

While the Government resisted calls to decriminalise prostitution for children, saying it would send out the wrong message, it said the courts should only be used in cases where the child "freely" and "continually" tried to offer sex for money. This definition effectively rules out almost all cases against child prostitutes.

The Children's Society argued that unless child prostitution was decriminalised, children who were victims of abuse were still liable to being punished. "This is bad law and dangerous practice. There is no excuse at all for a law that punishes abused children," he said. The Association of Chief Police Officers said it welcomed the guidelines.

FORECAST
General situation It will become increasingly windy across Northern Ireland with severe gales possible. There will also be prolonged spells of heavy rain. Western Scotland, Wales and western England will start mainly dry, but it will soon become very windy with rain edging slowly eastwards during the afternoon. Eastern Scotland and eastern England will remain generally dry but any early sunny spells will disappear as a cold front brings a growing risk of rain. It will also feel quite cold in the strengthening wind.

SE England, London, E Anglia: A mainly dry but mostly cloudy day and quite cold with patchy rain breaking out towards evening. A freshening south-easterly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

E & NE England: Some early sunny spells, but clouding over with rain this evening. A fresh to strong south-easterly wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

West & NW England, Midlands, Cent & NE England: Increasingly windy and cloudy as rain edges eastwards. A strong south-easterly wind. Max temp 5-7C (43-45F).

Channel Is, SW & NW England, Wales, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Becoming cloudy and very windy with rain spreading eastwards. A strong to gale force south-easterly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

N Ireland: Very windy with heavy rain falling into the afternoon. A strong to gale force south-easterly wind. Max temp 5-8C (43-46F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Very windy with rain soon breaking out. A strong to gale force south-easterly wind. Max temp 4-5C (39-41F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: A rather cold and frosty start for most places, but it will be bright before cloud increases bringing rain towards evening. A freshening south-easterly wind. Max temp 3-5C (37-41F).

OUTLOOK
The far north-west will still be very windy tomorrow. The south-east will have drizzly rain, but it will be mild for much of the country, with a mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers. Thursday will see further outbreaks of rain for most places.

TRAVEL
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout. Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Unit 21st December 1998. Cambridgeshire A10 between Foston and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Stowthorpe. Unit 14th February. Buckinghamshire M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 2 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Unit 1st January. Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major roadworks on Avonmouth Barge Unit 23rd June 2001. Monmouthshire: A448 between A472 and M4 J24. Roadworks. Unit 11th January.

Lancashire: M6 between J27 Standish and J28 Leyland. Roadworks: contraflow and a 50 mph speed limit other side of Charnock Richard Services. Unit 12th February. Greater Manchester: A57. Narrow lanes work at Stowthorpe. Unit 14th February. Dumfries and Galloway: A74 between lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Unit 31st January. AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

RAIN OR SHINE...

THOUSANDS of homes and businesses in Scotland were last night facing a third night without electricity after the weekend storms, and some could still be without power today. Scottish Power had hoped to reconnect about 20,000 customers by midnight but said it had been hampered by further poor weather on Sunday night and problems of access to remote areas because of fallen trees and debris.

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Top sailors call it Hell on High Water. This year, the race lived up to its name

By Andrew Buncombe

HOPES OF finding four missing sailors including a British Olympic competitor had all but disappeared last night after the worst disaster to hit the yachting world in two decades.

Officials called off the search for Glyn Charles, who was washed overboard from his yacht, *Sword of Orion*, during the notoriously tough Sydney to Hobart race. Two other sailors were confirmed to have died, while a further three were still missing.

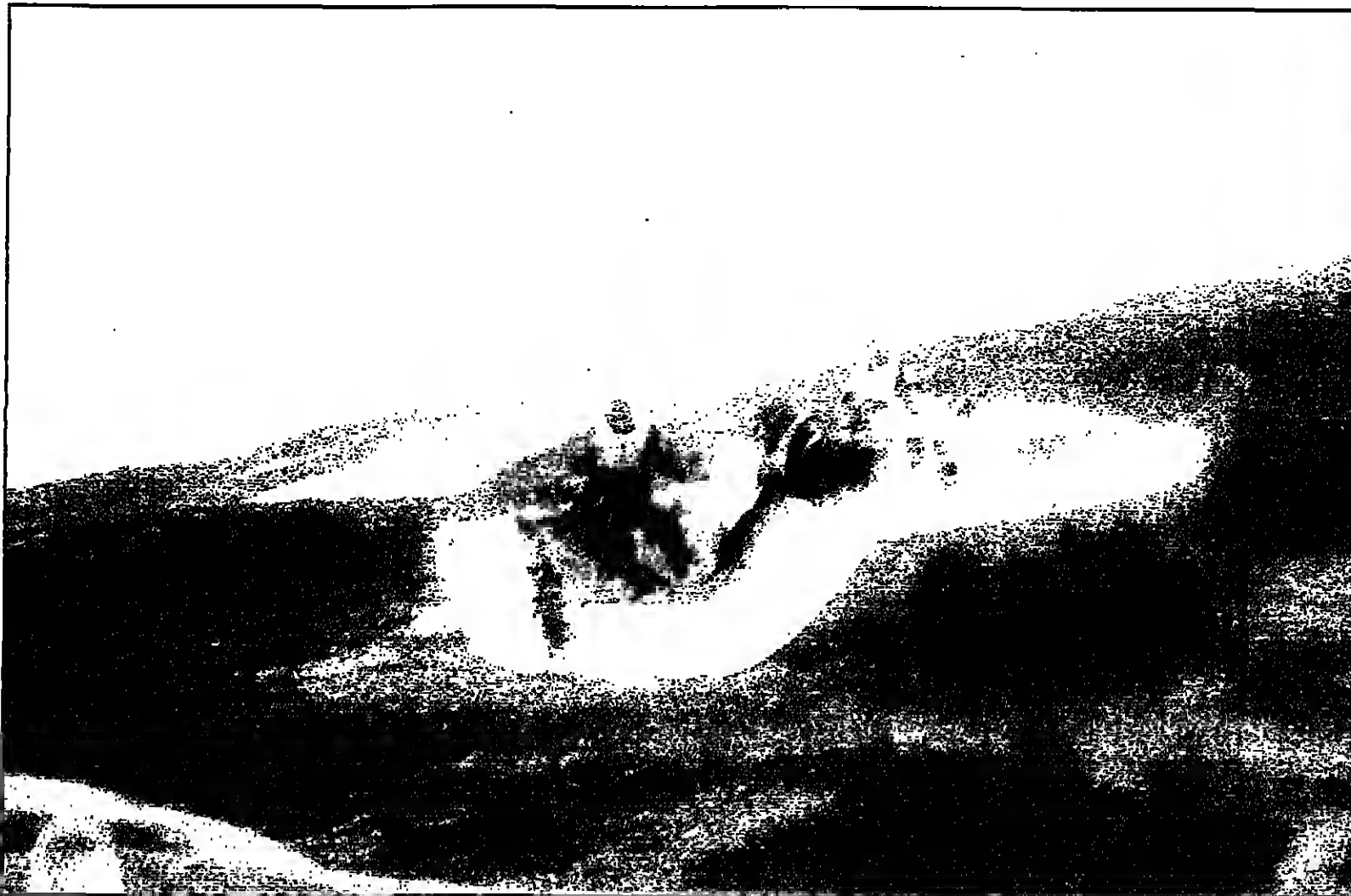
"The search for Glyn Charles has been called off and his family have been notified of that decision. The area was searched thoroughly and there was simply no point in carrying on," said a spokesman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. "It is now nightfall and we are assuming he has drowned. He has been out there in 10-metre waves and 80-kilometre winds. He will be a superman if he makes it."

By last night, 67 boats – well over half the starters – had abandoned the race and were heading for safe harbour, with dozens arriving at the New South Wales port of Eden. Many of the crew members were in tears as they stepped ashore from their battered yachts. All were exhausted.

David Evelyn, of the Wheelhouse Restaurant, overlooking the harbour, said: "All the crews have been saying it's the worst seas they have seen. Ambulances rushed to the dock to take the wounded to hospital. Many people were in shock. It has been pretty chaotic."

With six sailors either dead or missing, presumed drowned, and 56 needing to be pulled from the sea, this year's Sydney-Hobart race is the worst disaster to hit the yachting world since the 1979 Fastnet race, which claimed 15 lives.

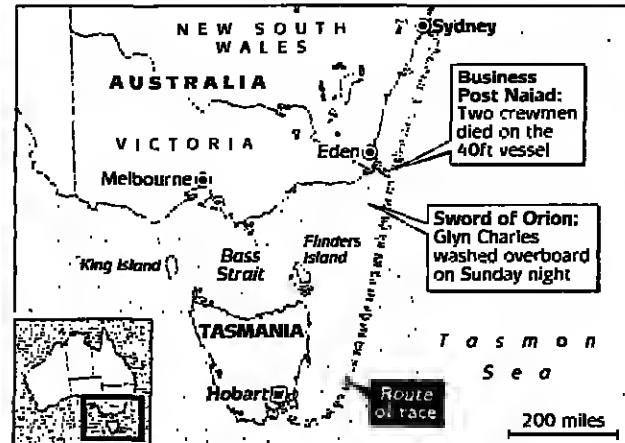
A total of 115 yachts left



A photograph taken by a crew member of the *Stand Aside*, showing the mountainous seas confronting the race competitors



Richard Winning, skipper of the *Winston Churchill*, who was flown to safety after his yacht was lost



Sydney three days ago for a classic race across 630 miles of formidable seas to the Tasmanian capital. Nicknamed "Hell on High Water", it is a race famous for its severity.

Veterans – including the former prime minister Ted Heath, who won in 1969 skippering *Morning Cloud* – tell of mountainous waves, winds of 80mph and hours spent struggling to cover just a few miles.

But it is also a race that attracts the world's best sailors

and those who passed under Sydney Harbour bridge at 1pm on Boxing Day knew what they could expect.

As the hours passed, however, so the conditions worsened. The crews were lashed by winds of up to 80 knots and swells of almost 10 metres. For many it rapidly became a battle for survival.

Throughout the day the storm continued to build, culminating in hurricane-force winds which, survivors said,

turned waves in to "mountains". Coupled with cruel tides, the gale sent 13-metre-high walls of water crashing over the yachts every 30 seconds, leaving 23 sunk or abandoned.

"It is not a race for beginners," said Ashley Cargill, 33, navigator with the *India Pacific* – one of more than 40 crews who turned back and headed for Eden.

"We are a pretty seasoned crew and we knew what to expect but these were easily the

worst conditions we have experienced. We had 62-knot winds coming across the deck and waves of more than eight metres. The boat was getting knocked about all over the place. Four of our crew were seasick. I think the boat would have been fine but the crew were exhausted."

Knowing that conditions would be even worse when they entered the Bass Strait in the "Roaring Forties", the crew decided at 1pm on 27 Decem-

ber to turn back. It took them 12 hours to cover the 45 miles to Eden.

Others were not so fortunate. Six members of the crew of the *Winston Churchill*, which was built in 1942, were winched to safety from life-rafts but three of their colleagues had earlier been swept into the sea.

Two sailors from the *Business Post Naiad*, which had lost its mast, died after a nine-metre wave smashed into the yacht. One died from a heart

attack, the other drowned after being swept into the sea still attached to his lifeline.

Glyn Charles, 33, from Emsworth, Hampshire – an Olympic sailor who had taken part in four Admiral's Cup events – was washed overboard from his 43ft yacht when it rolled at about 8.30am GMT on Sunday.

Rescuers, including helicopters crews using thermal imaging equipment and seven Australian Air Force planes,

searched for him for more than 24 hours before abandoning their efforts.

He was swept overboard after *Sword of Orion* lost its mast and capsized, flinging crew members into the sea.

Last night *Sayonara* – owned and skippered by the US computer executive Larry Ellison, and with Lachlan Murdoch, the son of the media tycoon Rupert Murdoch – was leading the race, ahead of the defending champion *Brindabella*.



Glyn Charles (at the helm) with George Skoudos in the 1996 Olympic Games

British team stunned by storm tragedy

GLYN CHARLES – the British Olympic yachtsman presumed drowned after being washed overboard in the Sydney to Hobart race – was almost certain to have represented Britain for the second time at an Olympic Games, in Sydney in 2000.

Mr Charles was an experienced sailor who had taken part in four Admiral's Cup events. He had competed in the 1996 Atlanta Games, when he finished 11th in the Star Class

event with his partner George Skoudos when the races were held off Savannah, Georgia.

His absence will mark a second blow to British Olympic sailing in just over 15 months. Last year, in Italy, the 1996 silver medalist John Merricks was killed in a car crash.

The loss of Glyn Charles prompted disbelief and despair among friends and fellow competitors in the sailing commu-

nity last night. Most of the rest of the Olympic squad is in Australia for the series of world championships in Melbourne.

His Olympic coach, Rod Carr, said: "He was so keen on sailing. He just wanted to sail all the time, and he was always up for a race."

Charles had been coaching Andy Beadsworth in Sydney as part of his succession in the Soling's class build-up to Melbourne when he met Steve Kulmar, with whom he had

sailed for Australia in the 1997 Admiral's Cup after sailing for Britain in the three previous international team championship regattas.

Kulmar invited him along for the Sydney to Hobart race so Charles cancelled his intended flight home to England for Christmas and arranged instead to go on to Melbourne to pick up his gear.

Born in Wales on 4 September 1965, he had come to prominence as a 21-year-old in

the single-handed Laser Class, winning the national championship a year later.

In 1988 and 1992, he tried for the British Olympic place in the three-man Soling event, only to be pipped by Lawrie Smith. But he turned the tables on Smith in the 2-man Star Class for the 1996 Games.

Last night, after the search for him was called off, his mother, Margaret, paid tribute to her "enthusiastic and wonderful son". Mrs Charles said

her son had died doing what he loved most.

"I always used to say if something happened to Glyn while he was sailing he was doing the thing he loved most. Glyn has been dedicated to sailing since a small boy and it was wonderful that he achieved his great ambition by competing in the 1996 Olympics." She added: "We shall miss him terribly and his great enthusiasm about everything. He was a wonderful son."



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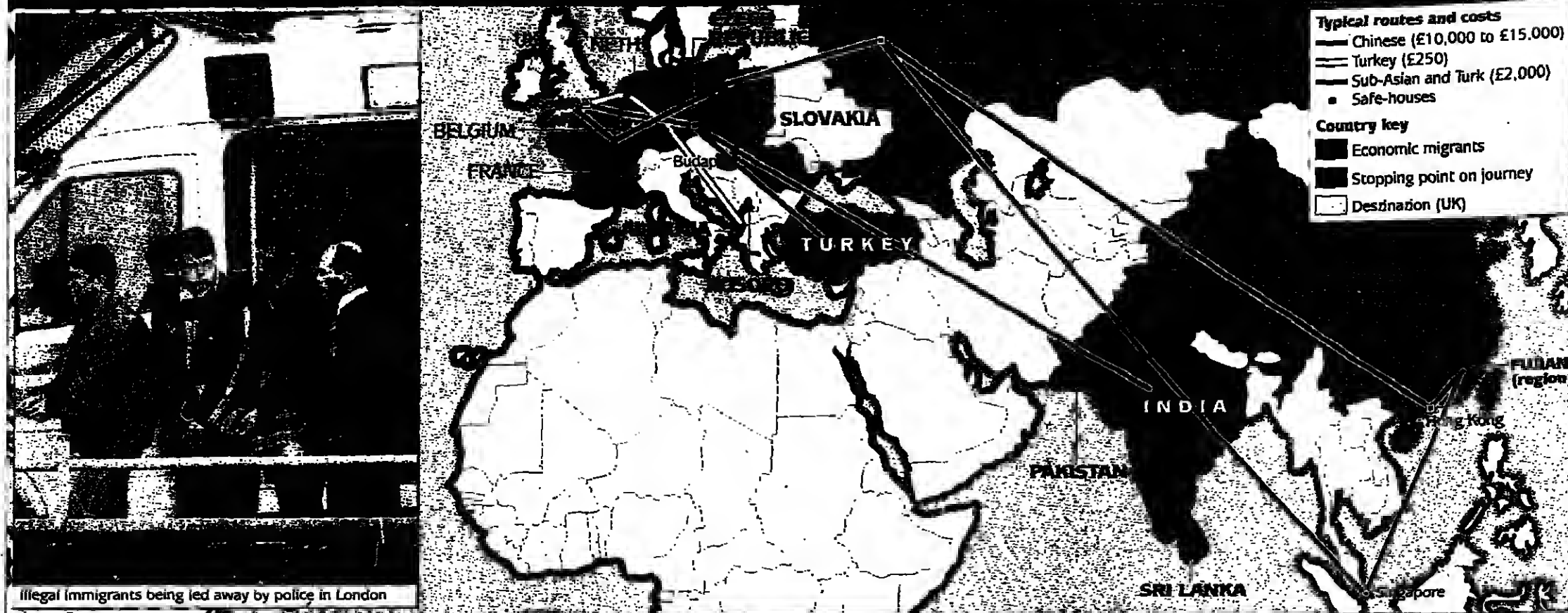
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THE MOST COMMON ROUTES FOR SMUGGLING PEOPLE INTO THE UK



Illegal immigrants being led away by police in London

Massive Attack
sees off
old guard

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

ANYONE OVER 30 should stop reading here. As the year draws to a close and critics rush to catalogue the events, people and anthems of the year, a poll of Radio 1's listeners to find the all-time top 100 has chosen few of the old classics.

Instead of a familiar clutch of Beatles, Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley numbers, the chart paid homage to more modern bands. Even the perennial favourite, "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin, failed to make it as Radiohead, The Verve and Manic Street Preachers took over the list. Madonna's "Ray of Light" was voted in at number 71 and George Michael scraped in at number 99 with "Careless Whisper". But the only two old tracks to make it into the top 20 were Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and John Lennon's "Imagine".

The top slot was taken by Massive Attack's "Unfinished Symphony", followed by Nirvana, The Verve, Underworld and Radiohead. Oasis scored nine hits in the chart while Radiohead appeared six times and REM three.

A spokesman for Radio 1 said the chart reflected the station's younger listenership. "Our target audience is 15 to 24 and that is shown by the songs they selected," he said. "We were surprised but clearly people view bands like Oasis, The Verve and Radiohead as the new Beatles. They have written classics for a younger generation."

The station also asked celebrities including Cher and Bono to choose their favourite songs. Their choices yielded few surprises apart from Mick Hucknall of Simply Red who modestly chose his own track "Fairground". The band still failed to make it into the chart. William Shakespeare and Sir Winston Churchill are among the nominees chosen by listeners of Radio 4's "Today" programme for British personality of the millennium.

Listeners can cast their final votes for the outstanding Briton of the past 1,000 years from Jan today. The result will be announced on 1 January.

£250 to buy a new life in Britain

WHEN POLICE found 103 Romanians crammed into the back of a lorry in Kent this month, the discovery focused attention on the cheap end of a multi-million pound industry.

People-smuggling has become big business for an estimated 20 international organised crime gangs that are bringing between 2,000 and 4,000 illegal immigrants into Britain every month.

The Romanians probably paid about £250 a head to be

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

taken to a safe house in Belgium before being driven to England in a lorry trailer but some of the Chinese immigrants who arrive illegally in Chinatown, central London, pay up to £15,000 for a "first-class ticket". For this price they can get fake identification, a flight, the help of a bent solicitor and a job in a kitchen.

According to the National

Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), people-smuggling is a growing problem that is attracting an increasing number of highly organised gangs. NCIS says that while some of the people being brought in by the crime gangs are among the estimated 38,000 people who applied for asylum this year, most are economic migrants looking for a better life.

There are two basic smuggling systems. People going "first class" use counterfeit or

forged original documents. The method can also involve people impersonating the legitimate owners of the documents. The "second-class" route involves hiding in the back of a lorry or small boat.

The Chinese pay the most to be smuggled into Britain. They sometimes pay in instalments with families in China being charged exorbitant interest on outstanding balances. One of the largest smuggling groups is known to bring in 250 people a

month, and a typical route involves a flight to Hong Kong or Singapore, with an onward connection to Moscow, Prague or Budapest.

Smugglers who arrange the European end of the transport sometimes organise their convoys along military lines, with a forward reconnaissance vehicle, a rear guard, and drivers who use night-vision goggles and walkie-talkies to take their human cargo across the frontier. Once inside the EU, move-

ment is easy with few border controls. They are taken to France, Belgium or the Netherlands and kept in a safe house before crossing to Britain via ferry or the Channel tunnel with fake papers, or hidden in the back of a lorry. Occasionally a small boat brings them across.

Dover is the most popular port of arrival, but Hull, Felixstowe, Harwich and south coast ports are also used.

Fixers from the Sub-continent usually charge their

Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan clients about £2,000 a person. They provide false documents to get them into Prague or Moscow, then follow the same route as the Chinese.

A growth area for both gangs has been in the trafficking of eastern Europeans, most noticeably Romanians, Slovaks and Czechs. Albanians, often pretending to be from the Serbian province of Kosovo, are the biggest group coming into the UK. They pay about £200 each to be smuggled in the back of a lorry to Germany and then on to the Netherlands. A further £50 gets them a ride in the back of a lorry to the UK.

Once in Britain most migrants head for London where some of the deals include advice on how to claim benefit and how to apply for asylum.

Many of the criminals are using established drug routes to bring in their human cargo. Smuggling people has proved to be a profitable extra income for the gangs, but unlike drug trafficking does not carry the risk of a heavy jail sentence. "People have become just another commodity to make money from," said an NCIS detective.

Budapest, the smuggler's gate to the West

RASHID, A PAKISTANI student in his twenties, was stopped on the Hungarian border as he tried to cross into Austria.

Nobody knows exactly where he was planning to go, but the border guards at Győr, 70 miles from Budapest and about the same distance from Vienna, were sure he was trying to cross illegally.

"I don't know why I am being held here, I am a tourist and I wanted to go to Vienna to see my aunt," he told them. But not

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Budapest

many tourists try to cross Hungary's "green" border with Austria at 2am without any papers.

Rashid is one of thousands who are taking their chances on Europe's people-smuggling network, which stretches through Turkey and the former Soviet Union to the favourite destinations - Germany, Austria and, increasingly, Britain.

Between 600 and 800 Kosovo

Albanians alone are caught every month on the Austro-Hungarian border.

People-smuggling networks, often linked to organised crime, use the Hungarian capital as their collection and distribution point, say officials. Hungary's proximity to the West, and the lack of visa requirements for citizens of countries such as Turkey, Yugoslavia and much of the former Soviet Union, has made Budapest the smugglers' favourite city.

Once an illegal immigrant has made it across into Austria, and the Schengen zone, he or she can link up with fellow-countrymen who will then pass them along a human chain until they reach their destination. The Hungarian border guards, equipped with obsolete computers and dilapidated vehicles, are being swamped by this human tidal wave.

General Dezzo Kovacs of the Győr border guards said: "These are hi-tech networks,

stretching from the departure country to the organisers in Budapest, and the contacts on the green border."

"The migrants are either provided with forged documents or smuggled through."

Hungary is now coming under diplomatic pressure to tighten its borders. With Poland and the Czech Republic, also popular transit destinations because they border Germany, Hungary is likely to join the EU early in the next century. General Kovacs continued: "If the west wants Hungary to be an EU border country, it should give us more help. We have no computers at all on our eastern border."

Istvan Dobo, of the Budapest Office for Refugees and Migration, said: "When Hungary joins the EU it will have borders with non-member states, so more people will head for Hungary and, because of Schengen, once they are here they will be able to travel freely in the EU."

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Threat to veto on organ donation

RELATIVES ARE likely to lose the right to withhold consent for organ donations from family members who have died.

The British Medical Association is considering a big change in policy after its ethics committee decided to support a system of "presumed consent". That approach would allow doctors to remove the organs of patients who died in hospital unless they had chosen to "opt out". At present, individuals must "opt in" by putting their names on the National Donor Register or signing a donor card.

Michael Wilkes, chairman of the BMA ethics committee, said evidence from other European countries suggested there would be a "significant increase" in the number of organs available for transplant if the United Kingdom adopted a system of presumed consent. In Belgium, individuals are deemed to have given consent for organ donation unless they "opt out" when they renew their driving licence.

If doctors vote in favour of the move at the BMA's annual meeting in July, it will put pressure on the Government to consider a change in the law.

Dr Wilkes said that with the demand for heart, lung and liver transplants outstripping the availability of organs, patients were dying while waiting for an operation.

He added: "It would be wrong to assume... that a change in the law to presumed consent would entirely close the gap between the organs needed and those available, but we think it would improve the situation to some degree."

The only other options were

BY SARAH WILSON

buying organs from other countries or using organs from animals, mainly pigs, he said.

Under existing legislation organs can be removed only with the prior consent of the patient, or with the approval of the family after death. Doctors generally approach relatives even if the deceased has signed a donor card, and in about one-third of cases relatives refuse permission.

Dr Wilkes said: "There are situations when relatives overrule the expressed views of the patient, and we think that is unacceptable. There is an argument that, at a very difficult time for relatives, it is better that the decision has been taken out of their hands. Many relatives, after the initial trauma, are grateful that at least something has been done to save someone else."

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health said: "At the moment what we want is to encourage more people to opt in, but we will be looking very carefully at what the BMA is saying."

The BMA initiative was welcomed by Evan Harris, Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon, who introduced a private member's Bill in the last session of Parliament, aiming to increase the availability of organs. "I am delighted that, after initially opposing my proposals, the BMA ethics committee is now supporting a system of presumed consent," he said.

"There is a silent tragedy of hundreds, if not thousands of people dying each year while waiting for a transplant, while healthy organs are discarded."

WEST END PLAYS STAR IN AMERICA'S DRAMATIC TOP 10



The Beauty Queen of Leenane

Playwright: Martin McDonough
Director: Garry Hynes

Star: Marie Mullen, Anna Manahan

US critic's view: A well-made plot that keeps bending in unexpected ways. Flawlessly performed... It is one of the major theatrical experiences of the Nineties.



Cabaret

Director: Sam Mendes and Rob Marshall
Star: Natasha Richardson, Alan Cumming

US critic's view: Cumming gave Grey's Wilkommen a sinister new twist as the MC; Richardson embodied a defiantly deglamoured Sally Bowles; and British director Mendes made the terrific musical even more terrific.



Trainspotting

Director: Harry Gibson
Star: Seth Ullan, Sebastian Roché

US critic's view: The Scottish slackers of Welsh's novel are even grungier in the stage adaptation than on screen... Rich dialogue and fine acting turn it into a memorable trip to the lower depths. Including the

Not About Nightingales

Director: Trevor Nunn
Star: Corin Redgrave and Finbar Lynch

US critic's view: Looking back, Tennessee Williams probably found his early, unproduced play crude and lacking in poetry. Both are true. But Trevor Nunn's intense production (which had its American debut at the Alley Theatre in Houston) also shows off the sheer raw power of a dramatist on the verge of greatness.



Adventures in Motion Pictures' Swan Lake

Director: Matthew Bourne
Star: Adam Cooper

US critic's view: You mean, the swans were once played by women? That is an understandable reaction to Matthew Bourne's acclaimed version of the ballet, with its all-male corps of swans. It is no cross-dressing stunt but a visually luscious and dramatically convincing reinterpretation on an old favourite.

British talent triumphs on Broadway

HALF OF the best theatre productions staged in the US this year have been British, according to *Time* magazine.

In a pleasing irony, while much has been made of the Hollywood invasion of the British theatre - with Nicole Kidman and Kevin Spacey winning awards on the West End stage - Broadway has been sampling and lauding the best of British talent.

Time has published its annual list of the best shows of the year and, of the 10 plays, 5

BY DAVID LISTER AND KATE WATSON-SMYTH

are British. Top of the list is *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, followed by Sam Mendes' production of *Cabaret*, starring Natasha Richardson. *Not About Nightingales* - Trevor Nunn's adaptation of the Tennessee Williams play - *Trainspotting*, and Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*, with male swans, also feature.

William Tycan, chief theatre reporter at *Time*, said the list

reflected the quality of British writing. "A lot of the success of British plays is down to snob value, where people come because they have heard about a play that has done well in London. But British writers have been more active in the theatre, whereas American writers tend to get wooed away to the movies or television."

Martin McDonagh, who wrote *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, is, admittedly Irish, as are the casts of his play, but *The Beauty Queen* was one of a tri-

logy of his plays put on, championed and exported by the Royal Court Theatre.

Broadway's top 10 contains other examples of challenging interpretations that have shown British companies at their most inventive. *Adventures in Motion Pictures' Swan Lake*, starring the former Royal ballet star Adam Cooper and choreographed by AMP's Matthew Bourne, re-invented a classic and achieved the unthinkable of giving ballet a sell-out West

End run before transferring to the States. In *Cabaret*, America glimpsed the precocious talents of the Donmar Warehouse director Mendes as well as a couple of marvellous performances from Alan Cumming and Natasha Richardson.

Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting* is more than well known, giving a graphic and intense, witty and violent account of drug and dole culture in an Edinburgh far removed from the Royal Mile.

But the piece that must

have given the Americans more food for thought than any other is *Not About Nightingales*. This was Tennessee Williams' first play, and never performed until it was put on at the National Theatre.

This early work from one of America's greatest playwrights was directed by Trevor Nunn, artistic director of the National Theatre and brought to the stage by Vanessa Redgrave, Natasha Richardson's mother, after long negotiations with the Williams estate.

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COUNTDOWN TO THE EURO

How Europe is facing the challenge

VIEW FROM FRANCE

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

THE EXCITED children aged 9 and 10 were learning about the euro in the school car park. They were also trying to stand on one another's feet when Madame was not looking.

The Eurobus - touring Normandy for the past three months, spreading the gospel of the single currency - had come to town. Or in this case, to the village of Cambes-en-Plaine, just north of Caen.

"What will the euro mean to you?" asked the bright, young woman wearing jeans, and a stud in her nostril.

"It will mean we have less money, because everything will be divided by six," said little Philippe. "No," explained the patient woman from the Treasury. "Your pocket money will seem less but it will buy as many sweets as before."

Florian, aged nine, piped up: "The euro will mean we are stronger because we will be 11 countries working together, instead of one. It will mean that we don't have to pay to change our money when we go abroad."

The bright, young woman beamed. Florian's Papa, it turned out, is a bank manager.

Overall, faced with the historic prospect of the abolition of the franc, the class displayed remarkable knowledge - and blithe indifference.



Shoppers leaving a supermarket in Vitry, south of Paris, where prices are given in euros

Jacques Brinon

Something similar could be said of France as a whole.

Partly because the everyday consequences seem so far away, with the franc remaining in circulation for another three years, France will greet the new year launch of the single currency with a wave of apathetic enthusiasm.

According to recent polls, almost 70 per cent of French people regard the euro positively. But the government and business representatives who have manned the Eurobus through Calvados since September report a surprisingly low level of interest.

"Some of the older people are making a bit of a drama out of it. They complain that they still think in old francs (abolished in 1960)," reported Claire Godillon, director of judicial affairs for the Caen chamber of commerce.

"Otherwise, people don't seem to care much either way. There are a few who are strongly in favour, a few who are violently against. The great majority are mildly curious and accept it's going to happen, whatever they think."

Although France voted only narrowly for the Maastricht Treaty for shadowing the euro,

the anti-single currency camp, on both the left and right, has failed in recent efforts to stir up indignation or concern. With interest rates and inflation at historic lows, the economy reasonably strong and the Bourse (stock market) at record highs, it's difficult to make a short-term, economic case against the euro. The political, sentimental case appears to have gone by the board, for now.

What will change from next month? Apart from the invisible but vital fact that control of France's currency will pass to the European Central Bank

in Frankfurt, not very much. All restaurants and shops have been asked to display prices in both currencies. Customers can pay in euros, by cheque or banker's card, but only if the establishment is ready to accept them. Employers can, if they wish, pay staff in euros from next month.

The euro is, however, transforming the lives of at least two people. The state Loto organised two special jackpot draws, just before and just after Christmas. In each, the first prize was seven million euros (roughly £5m) so creating the first euro-millionaires.

VIEW FROM PORTUGAL

BY ELIZABETH NASH

SOME PORTUGUESE are exploiting the launch of the euro on 1 January to swindle countryfolk of hard-earned savings. Smooth-talking "bankers" convince victims to hand over escudos they say are worthless, offering to swap them for euros. Earlier this month, in the latest of several incidents, two men persuaded an 82-year-old to part with 190,000 escudos (£700).

Cash in hand, the swindlers disappeared. It's a modern twist on an old scam in which dodgy "priests" urged villagers to hand over jewels and silverware to be "blessed" by a visiting cardinal.

The fraud reflects how Por-

tugal's preparation for the euro is focused on banks and big companies rather than the average Joao. "The euro is clearly defined for banks, securities and big companies, but not for small companies or the consumer," says Manuel Fidalgo of the Portuguese consumers' association, DeCo. "Our voice has not been represented, and we feel the crucial task of winning over public opinion has been neglected."

The Bank of Portugal frowns on traders' attempts to mark prices in both escudos and euros.

But the Portuguese, tradi-

tionally open to the wider world, are likely to cope well. The country has 10 million tourists a year, and even small shops and cafes are at home juggling currencies and languages. "Our savings banks already work in multi-currencies," says Nuno Jonet, spokesman at the Bank of Portugal. "We are flexible."

DeCo agrees. "We Portuguese are an easy-going nation, and we think we'll get used to the euro like we get used to everything," Mr Fidalgo says. "But consumers must be alert, and demand clear, precise and honest information, to protect us from sneaky hidden charges and fraudulent tricksters."

VIEW FROM IRELAND

BY KATHERINE BUTLER

IN IRELAND you know an issue has reached the man in the street when Pat Kenny starts to become exercised by it. Last week Mr Kenny, the host of a popular radio talk show, decided it was time to "cut through the confusion" of the single currency, a sure sign that the nation is waking up to the imminent reality of life in euroland.

Big business, the farmers and the political classes, who run the Celtic Tiger, have long embraced it. But the absence of any of the political hysteria that has characterised the debate in Britain has helped to foster an overwhelming public indifference. The most recent

survey showed the levels of ignorance towards the single currency were greater in Ireland than in any of the other participating countries.

Sixty per cent had no idea what the new currency was called and one in three could not say when it would be launched. That looks likely to change. The big supermarket chains, with the British-owned Tesco in the lead, will soon start to issue receipts in both Irish pounds and euros.

It is unlikely that waking up to the euro will generate a late outbreak of nostalgia for the punt. Currency has never

been a symbol of national identity in Ireland. Yet the most dynamic economy in the European Union will find its strong pro-Europe credentials put to the test once it has ceased monetary independence.

Low interest rates are just what the doctor ordered for the sluggish economies of the Continent but in booming Ireland, still growing at about 8 per cent a year, lower interest rates could fuel inflation, particularly in house prices and wages. Sterling volatility is the other worry, given that about 30 per cent of sales go to the UK. If sterling devalues against the euro, tens of thousands of Irish jobs could be lost.

Sceptics converted in first wave of nations

THE EURO has clear public support in most of the 11 countries taking part in the first stage. Indeed, public opinion has favoured the euro since the idea came on to the public agenda in the early Nineties.

Meanwhile, the most recent official European Union opinion survey, the Eurobarometer, found a new swing in its favour.

Over the past five years the Eurobarometer has regularly found just over half of people in the European Union to be in favour, with just under two in five opposed. But in its last survey, in the spring, as the euro received the go-ahead, it found 60 per cent in favour and 28 per cent opposed. Opinion in the 11 initial member countries was even more supportive, with 66 per cent in favour and 23 per cent opposed.

At the top of the euro popularity stakes is Italy, with

BY JOHN CURTICE

83 per cent in favour and 8 per cent opposed. At the bottom among those countries joining on Friday is Germany, where 51 per cent are in favour and 36 per cent are opposed. What for the Italians appears to be the attraction of a stronger currency is evidently for the Germans the fear of a weaker one. Indeed, this time last year more people in Germany were opposed to the introduction of the euro than were in favour.

In contrast, of the four countries not joining the euro at this stage, only in Greece does a majority of the public actually wish to do so. Greece was deemed unable to meet the Maastricht criteria. In Sweden, Denmark and Britain, only about a third were in favour and a half or more opposed.

But are those European governments who have opted

out of the euro simply following their public opinion or have they created it?

In countries where the government wished to join the euro, the rise in support averaged 10 points. In none of the three countries where the government did not wish to join was it greater than five points. Public opinion was more likely to be influenced by the euro moving from idea to fact where their government was welcoming this.

Furthermore, the three countries that opted out are not those with the three most Eurosceptical publics. Only in Sweden is public opposition to the euro matched by the public's doubts about the wisdom of being in Europe at all.

John Curtice is deputy director of the ESRC Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends.

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Shopping: The sales are on with a vengeance but economic gloom may deter many

Elbows out, now is the time to buy

PEPS GALVED the upper hand in their now-traditional seasonal battle with high-street stores as the new year sales got under way yesterday. Record numbers flocked to shopping centres as retailers offered reductions of up to 80 per cent.

In recent years shops have had to cut their prices more and more sharply every January to tempt shoppers. Consumers have learnt that prices rise in December and bargains arrive after Christmas.

In January 1998 the drop in the price of clothing and footwear was the highest since the war, at 6.6 per cent. The fall in the price of big-ticket household goods such as fridges and furniture was 3.9 per cent, the highest since records began in 1956.

The scale of price cuts in clothes and consumer electronics has grown almost every year since the late Eighties, and retail analysts have noted the increasing success of consumers' guerrilla tactics. Last year, spending boomed in January, encouraged by the big price cuts.

However, this year there were fears that retailers may have less surplus stock and therefore the bargains might not be as great. Last year over-optimism about Christmas shopping left them with huge amounts of unsold goods. But the early signs yesterday were that bargains were plentiful.

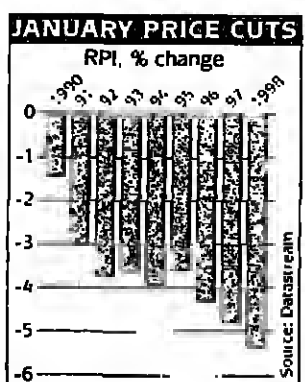
Not only have retailers cut back on their stocks this year, they have also been increasing prices every December and February to make up, at least partly for the price cuts in January. Lakeside shopping centre in Essex, one of the biggest in the UK with 320 outlets, saw more customers than any pre-

BY DIANE COYLE
AND SARAH WILSON

vious Sunday when it opened after Christmas.

Richard Bell, the general manager, said: "The level of discounting is higher than ever; 50 per cent is the average and some shops are offering between 70 and 80 per cent off."

He added: "This has been one of the worst retail years in memory. The weather has been terrible and has left retailers with large stocks to clear before bringing in their spring merchandise."



Ten people fainted in Next, Lakeside by lunchtime yesterday - one probably the wife of the customer who spent £1,000 in the men's department. The week's target for Next is £1m and it was expected that about £350,000 was taken in the first day of the sale.

Marks & Spencer, which had suffered a steep decline in pre-Christmas spending, is also offering discounts in all departments.

Going Places, the travel chain, said it was offering "huge" discounts for early summer holiday bookings through its 700 high-street shops. Bookings so far were 4

per cent ahead of last year.

At the Meadowhall outside Sheffield, eager shoppers were queuing in the rain from 5am yesterday. The scene was similar at the MetroCentre in Gateshead, according to the manager, John Bell. There were record numbers on Sunday and he was expecting at least 130,000 yesterday.

He added: "Last week's figures were pretty disappointing at the start of the week, but I think that is because the public are no longer fooled by the whole Christmas thing. They hold on to their money or give gift vouchers so that they can take advantage of the sales."

Ann Grain, speaking for the British Retail Consortium, said: "We hope this December follows last year's pattern. Last year it was very slow until the 21st and then completely turned around."

But the battle is not going all the consumers' way. Ms Grain admitted: "People might be a bit disappointed because retailers had their fingers hurt last year." There would be bargains, she said, but the sales were unlikely to last as long.

Consumer confidence has also been dented by the gloomy economic outlook. This, too, could hold back the scale of the nation's annual bargain-hunting spree.

Barclays Bank is predicting a steady housing market in 1999. The bank's forecast, issued yesterday, included mortgage rates falling to 6 per cent from the present 7.5 per cent and a boom in capped-rate mortgages as borrowers tried to lock into lower rates for the long term. House prices would continue to rise at just above the rate of retail inflation.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Perfume sales in Britain have fallen by £6m in two years

Magali DelPorte

'Fragrance fatigue' blamed for drop in scent market

SALES OF perfume are declining, with the UK market shrinking by £6m in the past two years, according to analysts. Scent sales are also stagnating across continental Europe, except in France.

Even for a special occasion such as Christmas, perfume is not as glamorous as it once was. Simon Horne of the Body Shop said: "In the Nineties people are looking to things like aromatherapy, to more natural fragrances and ways of living their lives, and a reflection of that is a simpler perfume."

If simpler is a synonym for cheaper, tests by Which? magazine seem to support this idea. In blindfold trials, sniffers failed

BY ANDREW MULLINS

to detect price differences, and some said that cheaper scents smelt more expensive than some expensive perfumes.

Industry insiders believe the increasing sophistication of consumers may also be leading to fragrance fatigue.

In the past decade, 813 perfumes have been launched, most cooed, bottled and marketed at a cost to the manufacturer of less than £10.

Predictably this deluge of new products has left some losers. Yardley collapsed in August with debts of £120m and other big manufacturers are also cutting back.

Retailers are combating the changing climate in differing ways. Sales volume is being maintained at Superdrug, with discounts of up to 30 per cent on top brands, while supermarkets such as Asda are competing with discounts of up to 75 per cent.

Prestige outlets such as Selfridges, on Oxford Street in London, are using other methods. Stephanie Thomas, the store's retail manager, said: "We sell gift sets, or coffret sets as they are called, and that is probably why we have pulled through. Customers are looking for a higher grade of service from us and added value is what we provide."

Irvine warning over Pinochet

BY GAVIN CORDON

THE LORD Chancellor said yesterday that the legal system was being brought into disrepute by events in the extradition case against General Augusto Pinochet.

Lord Irvine of Lairg said new procedures had to be adopted to ensure there was no repeat of the setting aside of the law lords' original ruling that the ex-Chilean dictator was not immune, as former head of state, from proceedings.

A second panel of law lords ruled that the case would have to be reheard after it emerged that a member of the original panel, Lord Hoffmann, had links to Amnesty International, which had been campaigning for the extradition to Spain of General Pinochet.

"It is of course unprecedented. It is in the highest degree unfortunate because it does have a tendency to bring the legal system into disrepute," Lord Irvine told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"This was, of course, litigation where the eyes of the world were, and are, upon us. But what is necessary to do is not to cry over spilt milk but to see that procedures are put in place to ensure that this does not happen again."

In future, Lord Irvine said, when a panel of law lords was assembled to hear an appeal, they should meet beforehand to ensure that none of them had a connection that could give rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Spain is seeking the extradition of the 83-year-old former dictator to stand trial on charges of murder and torture carried out under his regime. He was arrested in October by officers from Scotland Yard while recuperating from back surgery at a private hospital in London. At a subsequent court hearing, he was remanded on bail and is currently living in a rented house on the exclusive Wentworth Estate at Virginia Water, Surrey.

IN BRIEF

Bill to punish football racists

FOOTBALL HOOLIGANS face having to surrender their passports and being banned from grounds for up to 10 years under a private member's Bill proposed by Simon Burns, Tory MP for Chelmsford West. The Football Spectators' Offences Bill, which will outlaw racist or indecent chanting at matches, has government backing.

Scots oppose university tuition fees

ALMOST TWO-THIRDS of Scots oppose the introduction of tuition fees for university students, according to an opinion poll released yesterday. The poll, carried out by System Three for the public service union Unison, indicates 65 per cent of those questioned were against the levying of fees.

Camelot plans new lottery games

CAMELOT, ORGANISER of the National Lottery, said yesterday it was looking at new games including a five-number contest. A spokeswoman said lottery chiefs were considering a number of games to increase the company's profits and add to funds given to good causes.

Facelift for Yeats resting place

DRUMCLIFFE GRAVEYARD, resting place of the poet WB Yeats, and its adjoining church in Co Sligo, Ireland, are to have IR£600,000 (£550,500) spent on facilities, including a visitors' centre, for the 80,000 tourists a year to the writer's grave.

Squirrels at risk from nut-only diet

NUTS LEFT out for red squirrels could give them brittle bone disease, experts said yesterday. People leaving food out for squirrels this winter are advised to provide a mixed diet.

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Monitors ready to abandon Kosovo

FEARS ARE growing that deepening conflict in the Serbian province of Kosovo will force the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to withdraw, even before its mission there has been properly established.

The OSCE chairman, the Polish Foreign Minister, Bronislaw Geremek, said a "spiral of violence" was threatening any hope of peaceful solution. "If the bloodshed and violence escalate, the OSCE would have to reconsider the terms of its activities in Kosovo," he said.

The province was quiet for the first time yesterday after a truce brokered by the unarmed OSCE verifiers ended four days of fighting between ethnic Albanian guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the Yugoslav security forces.

Mr Geremek's statement was drawn up on Sunday, as the

BY PAUL WOOD
Balkans Correspondent

fighting continued, but OSCE officials said concerns remained that the unarmed monitors will soon be trapped in the middle of a full-scale civil war. "A local ceasefire doesn't change the underlying situation," one official said, adding that the option of pulling out was being kept under review.

A Western diplomat said Mr Geremek was "quite pessimistic" about the Kosovo mission's chances of success and wanted to highlight the option of withdrawal. The OSCE's chairman has the authority and mandate unilaterally to order a withdrawal of all personnel from Serbia if the situation deteriorates.

The 54-nation council of OSCE member-states would probably not be able to convene

in time to decide, although there would be consultations among the six-nation Contact Group of Britain, the US, Russia, France, Germany and Italy.

Under the terms of a deal agreed in October by the US envoy Richard Holbrooke and President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, 2,000 OSCE observers are allowed to work in the province. However, fewer than 700 are in place.

The unarmed personnel are there to verify that both sides are keeping to the terms of UN resolutions which demand that both sides pull back their forces and observe a ceasefire.

The absence of a lasting political settlement for Kosovo has seen the OSCE mission being drawn into an increasingly active role. The head of the mission, the ambassador William Walker, spent most of Christmas Day shuttling

between the two sides to try to end hostilities. At one point he called the mission "the last, best hope for peace in Kosovo".

At the height of the battle up to a hundred Yugoslav tanks and armoured vehicles were in action against KLA positions. Artillery, mortar and machine-gun fire sounded for hours across the snowy fields as columns of ethnic Albanian refugees fled.

Responsibility for the OSCE mission falls to the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Knut Vollebæk, in the new year, when Norway assumes the organisation's rotating chairmanship.

He said: "The OSCE as an organisation and me personally will be judged by what we accomplish in Kosovo. It could well be a success, but also a disaster."

Leading article, Review, page 3



President Bill Clinton speaking at the White House yesterday on preparations for the millennium bug

AP

Censure likely for Clinton

MOMENTUM IS building for a vote of censure against President Bill Clinton, rather than his removal from office. But it will still involve a trial in the Senate on two articles of impeachment, which could take perhaps two months.

"I think we have to start the process. The Constitution lays out a procedure by which we ought to begin, and I think the Senate will follow that," said Tom Daschle, the leading Senate Democrat. "I think the votes aren't there for impeachment," he added. "We ought to vote on these articles of impeachment, and that is the appropriate time to consider a censure," said Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

After the House of Representatives voted to impeach the President, the decision passed to the Senate, and a number of eminent senators are now preparing the ground for a solution that would be acceptable both to the White House and its Republican

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

enemies. Leading the initiative for censure is Senator Pat Moynihan, a veteran Democrat from New York who will retire at the next election.

Mr Moynihan is working with Republicans, including Senate Majority leader Trent Lott, to draft a censure motion. It is unlikely to include a fine, one element that had been suggested. The censure debate would probably come after a Senate trial, which, it is presumed, would not result in a vote against the President.

The timing of the Senate trial is still in question. Leading members of both parties have said that they want the trial to open soon after the Senate reconvenes on 6 January. It is expected to last for at least a couple of months, allowing both the "prosecution" and "defence" to mount their cases. But there are unlikely to be any witnesses.

Israel set for May poll

ISRAELI COALITION and opposition MPs have tentatively agreed that a general election will take place on 17 May next year, an opposition Labour Party MP said yesterday.

"It's a compromise between April 27 proposed by us, and

mid-June, which [the] Likud [party] proposed ... we compromised on May 17," said Elli Goldschmidt, Labour Party whip in parliament. The date must be approved by parliament, which is due to convene today. (Reuters)

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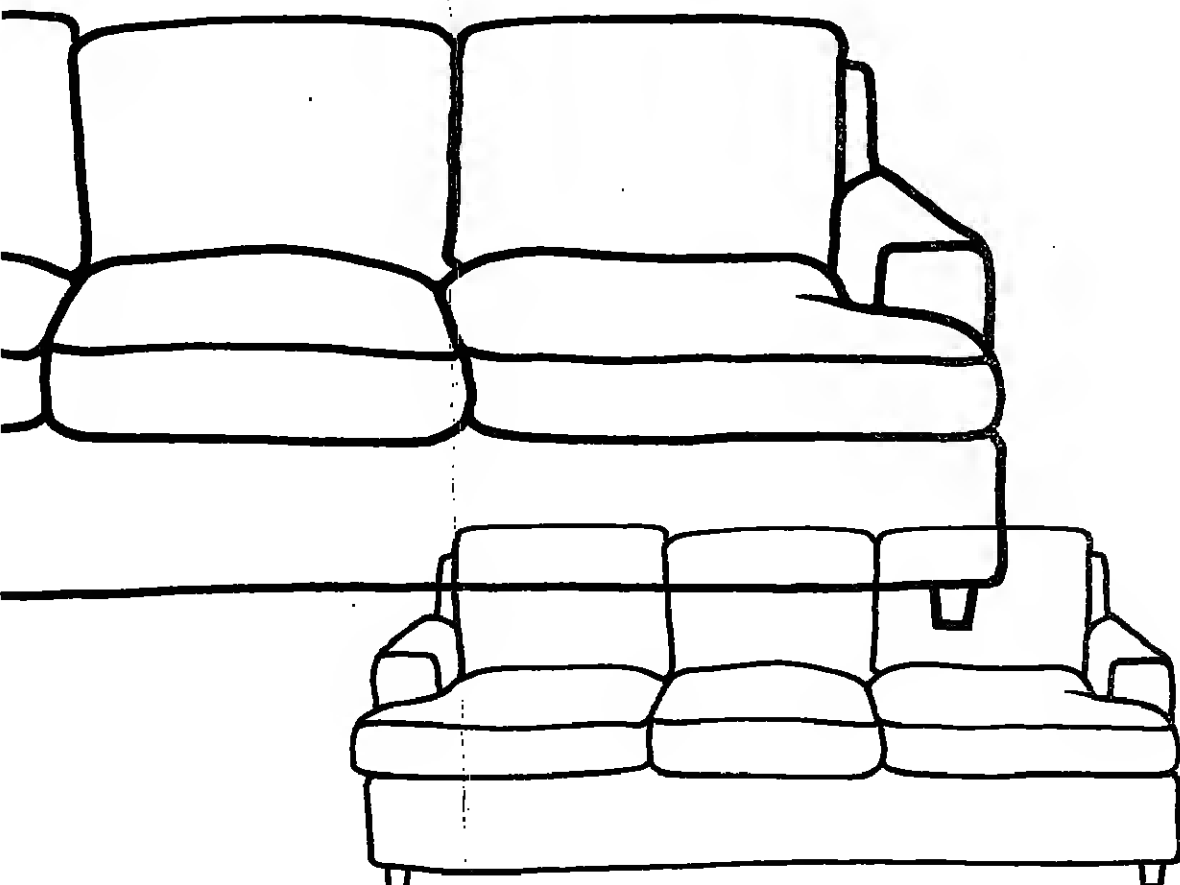
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THE INDEPENDENT

JANUARY

- 1 Cricket One Day England v Bradman XI, Bowral, Australia
2 Football FA Cup 3rd round
3 Cricket Fifth Test Match, England v Australia, Sydney (to 8)
4 Darts Embassy World Professional, Surrey (to 10)
5 Sailing World Championships, Melbourne (to 19)
6 Athletics International cross country meeting, Durham
7 Bobsleigh British Championships, Austria (to 9)
8 Siding Alpine World Cup Kranjska Gora, Slovenia (to 6)
9 Siding Alpine World Cup Schladming, Austria (to 9)
10 Cricket One Day England v Queensland, Brisbane
11 Rugby Union European Cup semi-final
12 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Brisbane
13 Basketball National Cup Final, Sheffield Arena
14 Siding Alpine World Cup Flachau, Austria
15 Rugby Union European Cup semi-final
16 Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Brisbane
17 Siding Alpine World Cup Adelboden, Switzerland
18 Golf Alfred Dunhill, PGA, Joannesburg, South Africa (to 17)
19 Bobsleigh World Cup and European Championships, Germany (to 17)
20 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Melbourne
21 Boxing (heavyweight non-title fight) Mike Tyson v Francois Botha (SA), Las Vegas (tbc)
22 Ice Hockey VIC Christmas Cup Final 1st leg
23 Racing Victor Chandler Handicap Chase, Ascot
24 Siding Alpine World Cup Wengen, Switzerland (to 17)
- 17 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Sydney
Rallying Monte Carlo Rally (to 20)
American Football AFC and NFC Championship games (Superbowl Semi-finals)
Ice Hockey VIC Christmas Cup Final 2nd leg
18 Tennis Australian Open (to 31)
19 Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Melbourne
21 Golf South African Open, Cape Province (to 24)
22 Speed Skating European Short Track Championships, Oberstdorf, Germany (to 24)
23 Siding Alpine World Cup Kitzbühel, Austria (to 24)
Football FA Cup 4th round
Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Adelaide
Boxing (heavyweight non-title fight) George Foreman v Larry Holmes, Houston
24 Figure Skating European Championships, Prague (to 31)
Athletics International cross country meeting, Belfast
25 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Adelaide
Siding Freestyle World Cup Fortress Mountain, Canada
27 Football Worthington Cup semi-final 1
28 Golf Heineken Classic, Perth, Australia
29 Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Perth
Swimming British Grand Prix, Swansea (to 31)
Rugby Union European Cup Final (1st leg)
30 Rugby League Salford Challenge Cup 3rd round (to 31)
Cycling Cross World Championship, Slovakia
Racing Great Yorkshire Handicap Chase, Doncaster
Athletics AAA Senior Indoor Championships
31 American Football Superbowl XXXII, Pro Player Stadium, Miami, Florida
Rugby Union European Cup Final (2nd leg)

FEBRUARY

- 1 Squash Manchester Business Pages National Championships
2 Cricket One Day England v Sri Lanka, Sydney
3 Golf European Tour event (tba), Kuala Lumpur (to 7)
4 Cricket One Day England v Australia, Sydney
5 Badminton London Victoria English National Championships (to 7)
6 Hockey Indoor finals, Crystal Palace
7 Rugby Union Five Nations Scotland v Wales; Ireland v France
8 Football Friendly England v France
9 Cricket One Day First Final, Sydney
10 Golf Dubai Desert Classic
11 Cricket One Day Second Final, Melbourne
12 Rallying Swedish Rally, Karlstad (to 14)
13 Curling English Championships, Perth (to 14)
14 Football FA Cup 5th round
15 Rugby League Salford Challenge Cup 4th round (to 14)
Boxing (WBC welterweight title fight) Oscar De La Hoya (holder) v Ike Quintero, Las Vegas
Swimming FINA World Cup, Glasgow (to 14)
Racing Tote Gold Trophy Handicap Hurdle, Newbury
- 14 Cricket One Day Third Final, Melbourne
Athletics Indoor International meeting, NA, Birmingham
17 Football Worthington Cup Semi-Final second leg
Golf Qatar Masters, Doha (to 20)
18 Swimming British Grand Prix, Leeds (to 21)
20 Badminton World Grand Prix Finals, Indonesia
21 Rugby Union Five Nations England v Scotland; Wales v Ireland
Siding Alpine World Cup Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany (to 21)
21 Figure Skating Four Continents Championships, Halifax, Canada (to 28)
Ice Hockey Challenge Cup 1st semi-final
22 Tennis Men's Guardian Direct Cup, Battersea Park (to 27)
25 Siding Freestyle World Cup Finals La Plagne, France (to 27)
26 Rallying Safari Rally, Nairobi (to 28)
27 Rugby League Salford Challenge Cup 5th round (to 28)
Basketball Dairylea Dunkers All Star Game, Newcastle Arena

MARCH

- 1 Snooker Thailand Masters, Bangkok (to 7)
2 Football UEFA Cup quarter-final 1st leg
3 Football European Champions' League quarter-final 1st leg
4 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final 1st leg
5 Golf Portuguese Algarve Open (to 7)
6 Athletics World Indoor Championships, Japan (to 8)
7 Rugby League Super League season begins
8 Athletics World Indoor Championships, Macao, China (to 7)
9 Speed Skating World Short Track Team Champs, Missouri, US (to 7)
10 Football FA Cup 6th round
11 Rugby Union Five Nations France v Wales; Ireland v England; Scotland v Italy
12 Gymnastics Rhythmic Gymnastics British Championships, Dewsbury (to 7)
Boxing (WBO featherweight title fight) Naseem Hamed (holder) v tba, Manchester
Siding Alpine World Cup Kvitfjell, Norway (to 7)
7 Motor Racing Formula One Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne
Ice Hockey Challenge Cup 2nd semi-final
8 Snooker China International (to 14)
Tennis Newsweek Champions Cup, Indian Wells, California (to 14)
9 Table Tennis English Open, Potters, Hopton-on-Sea
10 Badminton Yonex All England Open Championships, National Indoor Arena, Birmingham (to 14)
11 Siding Alpine World Cup Final, Sierra Nevada, Spain (to 14)
12 Rugby League Salford Challenge Cup Quarter-finals (to 14)
Boxing (world heavyweight title unification match) Lennox Lewis (WBC Champion) v Evander Holyfield (WBA/IBF Champion), New York
Athletics English National Cross Country Championships, Newark
Basketball uni-ball trophy final, NEC Arena, Birmingham
Racing Imperial Cup Handicap Hurdle, Sandown
15 Tennis Lipton Championships, Florida (to 28)
- 16 Football Worthington Cup semi-final 2
Racing Champion Hurdle, Cheltenham
17 Racing Queen Mother Champion Chase, Cheltenham
Football European Champions' League quarter-final second leg
Squash British Open, NEC Arena, Birmingham (to 28)
18 Golf Moroccan Open, Agadir (to 21)
Racing Cheltenham Gold Cup
Football European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final second leg
19 Speed Skating World Short Track Championships, Sofia (to 21)
20 Rugby Union Five Nations Scotland v Ireland; England v France; Wales v Italy
21 Football Worthington Cup Final
22 Motor Racing Formula One Chinese Grand Prix, Zhuhai
Siding World Figure Skating Championships, Helsinki (to 28)
Ice Hockey Challenge Cup Final
25 Golf Madeira Open, Santo de Sierra (to 28)
27 Football Euro 2000 qualifiers Macedonia v Rep of Ireland; Scotland v Bosnia Herzegovina; Northern Ireland v Germany
Fencing British Sabre Championships
Rugby League Salford Challenge Cup semi-finals (to 28)
Athletics IAAF World Cross Country Championships, Belfast (to 28)
Ice Hockey British National League semi-finals, Hull
Racing Lincoln Handicap, Doncaster
28 Football FA Women's Premier League Cup Final
Rallying Portuguese Rally, Oporto (to 31)
Ice Hockey British National League Final, Hull
Motorcycling Superbikes R1, South Africa
31 Football Euro 2000 qualifiers Scotland v Czech Republic; Moldova v Northern Ireland; Switzerland v Wales; England International tba

BRITAIN PLAYS HO

CRICKET WORLD CUP

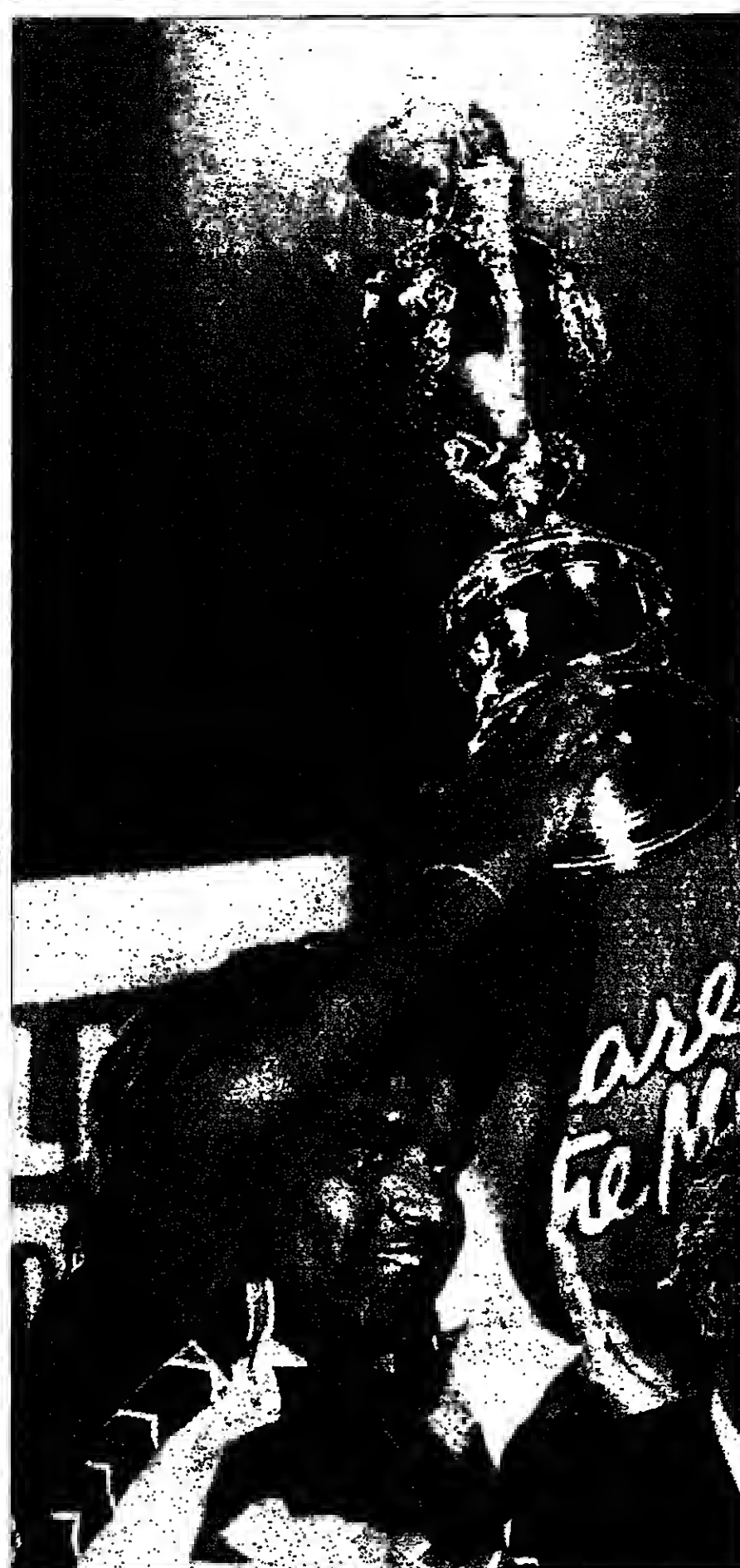
Group A: Sri Lanka, India, South Africa, England, Zimbabwe, Kenya.
Group B: Australia, West Indies, Pakistan, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Scotland.
Top three in each group qualify for Super Six stage

Group matches		
Fri 14 May	England v Sri Lanka	Lord
Sat 15 May	India v South Africa	Hov
Sun 16 May	Zimbabwe v Kenya	Taunton
	Australia v Scotland	Worcester
	West Indies v Pakistan	Bristol
Mon 17 May	New Zealand v Bangladesh	Chelmsford
Tues 18 May	England v Kenya	Canterbury
Wed 19 May	Sri Lanka v South Africa	Northampton
	India v Zimbabwe	Leicester
Thurs 20 May	Australia v New Zealand	Cardiff
	Pakistan v Scotland	Chester-le-Street
Fri 21 May	West Indies v Bangladesh	Edinburgh
Sat 22 May	England v South Africa	The Oval
	Zimbabwe v Sri Lanka	Worcester
Sun 23 May	Kenya v India	Bristol
	Australia v Pakistan	Headingley
Mon 24 May	West Indies v New Zealand	Southampton
	Scotland v Bangladesh	Edinburgh
Tues 25 May	England v Zimbabwe	Trent Bridge
Wed 26 May	Sri Lanka v India	Taunton
	South Africa v Kenya	Amsterdam
Thurs 27 May	West Indies v Scotland	Leicester
	Australia v Bangladesh	Chester-le-Street
Fri 28 May	New Zealand v Pakistan	Drby
Sat 29 May	England v India	Edgbaston
	Zimbabwe v South Africa	Chelmsford
Sun 30 May	Sri Lanka v Kenya	Southampton
	West Indies v Australia	Old Trafford
Mon 31 May	Scotland v New Zealand	Edinburgh
	Pakistan v Bangladesh	Northampton

Super Six		
Fri 4 June	Grp A 2nd v Grp B 2nd	The Oval
Sat 5 June	Grp A 1st v Grp B 1st	Trent Bridge
Sun 6 June	Grp A 3rd v Grp B 3rd	Headingley
Tues 8 June	Grp A 2nd v Grp B 1st	Old Trafford
Wed 9 June	Grp A 3rd v Grp B 2nd	Edgbaston
Thurs 10 June	Grp A 1st v Grp B 3rd	The Oval
Fri 11 June	Grp A 3rd v Grp B 1st	The Oval
Sat 12 June	Grp A 1st v Grp B 2nd	Headingley

Semi-final		
Wed 16 June	First semi-final	Old Trafford
Thurs 17 June	Second semi-final	Edgbaston

Sun 20 June	Final	Lord
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Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lankan captain, holds aloft the Cricket World Cup after his team defeated Australia in the 1996 final in Lahore

APRIL

- 1 Ice Skating World Challenge Cup Synchronized Skating, Göteborg, Sweden (to 4)
2 Tennis The Davis Cup World Group GB v USA, NEC, Birmingham (to 4)
3 Rowing The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race
Rugby Union Scottish Tennants' Velvet Cup semi-finals
Rugby Union Five Nations Scotland v France
Football FFA World Youth Championship (U20), Nigeria (to 24)
Ice Hockey Sekonda Superleague Play-Off semi-finals, Manchester EN Arena
Curling World Championships, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada (to 11)
4 Football AXA FA Women's Cup semi-finals
Motor racing British Touring Car Championship event Donington Park (to 5)
Baseball Major League season starts
Snooker British Open, Plymouth (to 11)
5 Racing Irish Grand National Handicap Chase, Fairyhouse
6 Football UEFA Cup semi-final first leg
7 Football European Champions' League semi-final first leg
Cricket Sharjah Tournament (to 16)
8 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final first leg
Golf Masters Tournament Augusta National, Georgia (to 11)
10 Racing Grand National Handicap Chase, Aintree
Football Tennants' Scottish Cup semi-finals
Rugby Union Five Nations Scotland v France
Rugby Union Ireland v Italy
Basketball Budweiser Championships Play-Off (first leg)
11 Football FA Cup semi-finals
Motor Racing Formula One Brazilian Grand Prix, São Paulo
Rugby Union Five Nations Wales v England
14 Equestrian Volvo World Cup final (show jumping), Gothenburg (to 18)
Basketball Budweiser Championships Play-Off (second leg)
16 Swimming British Grand Prix (50m), tbc (to 18)
17 Art
Gymnastics Rhythmic Gymnastics, British Group Championships, Hincley
Snooker Embassy World Championship, Crucible Theatre, Sheffield (to 3/5)
Rugby Union last scheduled fixtures for Allied Dunbar First Division season
Motor racing British Touring Car Championship event, Silverstone (to 18)
Basketball Budweiser Championships Play-Off (third leg)
18 Athletics London Marathon
Rallying Spanish Rally, Lloret de Mar (to 21)
Motorcycling Superbikes R2, Australia; 500cc Malaysian GP
19 Tennis Monte Carlo Open (to 25)
21 Football European Champions' League semi-final second leg
22 Football European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final second leg
Golf Peugeot Open de Espana (to 25)
23 Boxing ABA Senior Championships Finals, Barnsley Metrodome
24 Racing Whitbread Gold Cup Handicap Chase, Sandown
Judo British Open Championships, NA, Birmingham (to 25)
Speed Skating Skater of the Year Final, Altrincham (to 25)
Rugby Union Royal Navy v Army, Twickenham
25 Motorcycling 500cc Japanese GP
26 Table Tennis World Championships Belgrade (to 9/5)
27 Rugby Union Scottish Tennants' Velvet Cup Final
28 Football England International tba
29 Golf Fiat and Fiat Italian Open, Turin (to 2/5)

KEY: 6 weekends
Compiled by Sam Wallace

While all possible care has been taken in the compilation of this calendar, dates and venues are subject to change. Please check with organisers before arranging to attend events

THIS YEAR'S MAJOR EVENTS

Athletics London Marathon, 18 May World Champs, Seville, 20-29 Aug Boxing Evander Holyfield v Lennox Lewis, world heavyweight championship, New York, 13 Mar Cricket Test series v New Zealand: First Test, Edgbaston 1-5 July Second Test, Lords 22-26 July Third Test, Old Trafford 5-9 Aug Fourth Test, The Oval 19-23 Aug NatWest Trophy Final, Lords 29 Aug Super Cup Final, Lords 1 July World Cup: see panel above	Cycling Tour de France 3-25 July Football Worthington Cup final, 12 March Football UEFA Cup final, 12 May European Cup-Winners' Cup final, 19 May European Cup final, 26 May FA Cup final, 22 May Tennants' Scottish Cup final, 29 May Golf US Masters Tournament Augusta National, Georgia 4-11 Aug US Open Pinehurst No. 2, North Carolina 17-20 June The Open, Carnoustie, 15-18 July	US PGA Championship , Medinah, Chicago 12 Aug Ryder Cup, The Country Club, Massachusetts (24-26 Sep) Motor Racing Formula One British Grand Prix, Silverstone 11 July Racing Grand National, Aintree 10 April The Derby, Epsom 5 June National Hunt Festival, Cheltenham, 16-18 Mar Royal Ascot, 15-18 Jun Rowing The Boat Race 3 April Henley Royal Regatta 30 June-4 July Rugby League	Ski Cot Challenge Cup final, 1 May Super League, final weekend, 12-13 Sept Rugby Union European Cup Final, 29 Jan Tennants' Bitter Cup Final, Twickenham 15 May Swaile Cup final, tbc 15 May Scottish Tennants' Velvet Cup final, Murrayfield 27 April Five Nations' Championship Ireland v France, Dublin; Scotland v Wales, Murrayfield 6 Feb England v Scotland, Twickenham; Wales v Ireland, Wembley 20 Feb Ireland v England, Dublin; France v Wales, Paris 6 Mar England v France, Twickenham; Scotland v Ireland,	Murrayfield 20 Mar France v Scotland, Paris April 10 Wales v England, Wembley 11 April World Cup: see panel above Snooker Embassy World Champs 17 Apr-May 3 Tennis Australian Open, Melbourne 18-31 Jan French Open, Paris 24 May-6 June Wimbledon June 21-July 24 US Open, New York 30 Aug-12 Sept Davis Cup final, 3 Dec
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12 Athletics European Cross Country Championships, Velenje, Slovenia
16 Swimming British Winter Nationals, Ponds Forge, Sheffield (to 19)
Equestrianism Olympia Show Jumping Championships (to 20)
27 Ice Hockey Superleague All Star Game
Racing King George VI Chase, Kempton

150 من الالصل

BUSINESS

Big spenders head for crisis

BRIEFING

Markets edge up as euro looms

SHARES GAINED ground in the US and Europe yesterday in extremely quiet trading, but more gloom about Japan's economy pulled Tokyo and Hong Kong shares lower. The London stock exchange was closed for the Bank Holiday. Wall Street was led up by technology stocks. The Dow had risen 31 points, 0.3 per cent, to 9,250.03 by mid-morning. The Nasdaq was up 25 points, or 1.2 per cent, at 2,188.47.

In Europe - where preparations for the euro kept trading volumes low - one of the biggest gainers was DaimlerChrysler. It reported a 13 per cent rise in group revenues (on the previous combined figures of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler) to \$148bn (\$89bn). 1998 profits would be significantly higher than the combined 1997 total, the company said. Finland's Nokia advanced on reports of strong Christmas sales of mobile phones.

But in Tokyo the Nikkei index fell 89 points to 13,709.96. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 122 points to 10,170.14. Taiwan's market tumbled 201.35 points to 6,481.65.

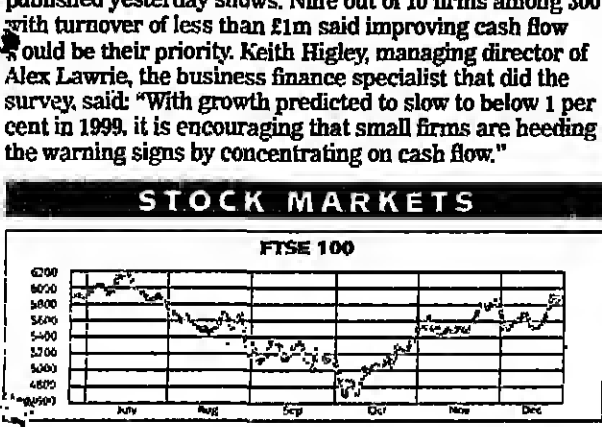
Germany faces exports collapse

GERMANY'S DOLE queues are expected to reduce in 1999, but the outlook for Europe's largest economy remains subdued, the country's leading economic institutes forecast yesterday. "Exports will weaken dramatically," Karl Heinrich Oppenlander, president of the Ifo institute, told the *Hannover Abendblatt*.

The institutes said this would be offset by significant growth in domestic demand. Four of think-tanks forecast gross GDP growth of between 1.7 and 2.3 per cent, while a fifth predicted only 1.4 per cent. All expected strong domestic demand to cut unemployment by 200,000 to 300,000, but they said wage demands posed a risk. Werner Müller, the Economics Minister, (pictured) called on the unions to temper wage claims.

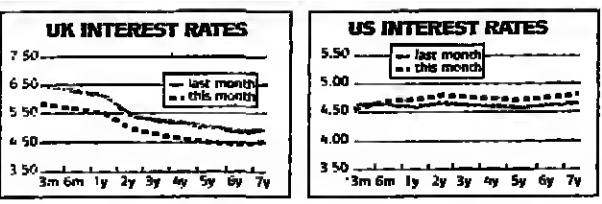
Small firms look to cash flow
CONFIDENCE IS low among small UK businesses, a survey published yesterday shows. Nine out of 10 firms among 300 with turnover of less than £1m said improving cash flow could be their priority. Keith Higley, managing director of Alex Lawrie, the business finance specialist that did the survey, said: "With growth predicted to slow to below 1 per cent in 1999, it is encouraging that small firms are heeding the warning signs by concentrating on cash flow."

STOCK MARKETS



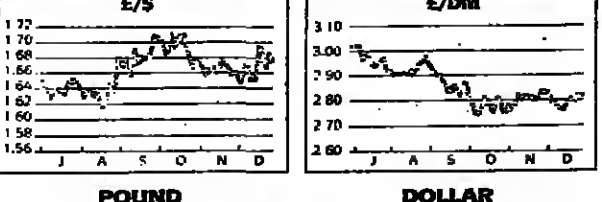
Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4587.20	4620.00	4520.00	5137.7	4599.2	...
FTSE 250	4812.80	4850.00	4750.00	5270.3	4247.6	...
FTSE 350	2762.50	2820.00	2680.00	2969.1	2210.4	...
FTSE All Share	2663.74	2700.00	2600.00	2886.52	2143.53	3.491
FTSE SmallCap	2052.40	2100.00	1950.00	2193.8	1834.4	4.093
FTSE Europe	1135.80	1150.00	1120.00	1171.1	1046.2	0.004
FTSE AM	792.10	800.00	780.00	814.5	761.3	0.002
FTSE EBLCC 100	986.98	1000.00	970.00	1010.0	960.0	...
Dow Jones	9217.99	9342.17	9136.00	9380.2	7400.3	1.624
Nikkei	13706.73	14202.26	13251.95	14787.9	1069.1	...
Hang Seng	10292.20	10689.29	10126.16	10944.79	3027.7	...
Hong Kong	4951.77	5227.96	4831.23	5217.83	3833.71	1.726

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	9 month	12 month	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.35	-1.34	5.68	-2.00	4.44	-1.76
US	5.28	-0.62	5.16	-0.81	4.77	-5.22
Germany	0.53	-0.23	0.57	-0.15	2.07	0.16
Japan	3.31	-0.39	3.18	-0.78	3.91	-1.32

CURRENCIES



Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr chg
Dollar	1.6723	1.6800	1.6600	1.6451	1.5451	0.0078
Yen	161.45	162.40	160.40	157.43	151.50	1.987
Yen	195.46	196.25	194.94	191.94	180.58	...
Yen	101.00	101.80	100.40	100.40	90.40	...

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr chg
Brent Oil (\$)	9.96	10.42	9.69	10.42	8.00	...
Gold (\$)	286.15	286.60	285.45	286.45	280.00	...
Silver (\$)	4.91	4.91	4.81	4.81	4.65	...

TOURIST RATES

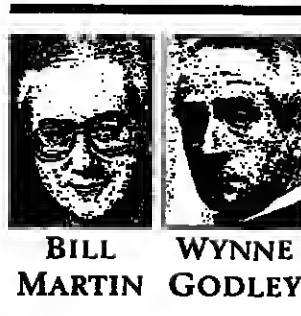
Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6340
Austria (schillings)	19.02
Belgium (francs)	55.91
Canada (\$)	2.5137
Cyprus (pounds)	0.7996
Denmark (krone)	10.36
Finland (markka)	8.2960
France (francs)	9.0878
Germany (marks)	2.7197
Greece (drachmas)	455.23
Hong Kong (\$)	12.50
Ireland (pounds)	1.0888
India (rupees)	63.93
Japan (yen)	189.45
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0780
Malta (lira)	0.6071
Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.85
Netherlands (guilders)	3.0502
New Zealand (\$)	3.0793
Norway (krone)	12.45
Portugal (escudos)	276.31
Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0935
Singapore (\$)	2.6473
Spain (pesetas)	230.08
South Africa (rand)	9.5253
Sweden (krone)	13.08
Switzerland (francs)	2.2147
Switzerland (francs)	55.79
Turkey (liras)	494574
USA (\$)	1.6252

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON was not alone late last year when he first characterised the economic turmoil in Asia as "a few small glitches in the road". Expert opinion was then pretty well united in the belief that the region's problems would not amount to a row of beans. The experts know better now.

Mr Clinton's gung-ho optimism was not wholly misplaced. Although much of Asia has sunk, the American economy has enjoyed another year's robust expansion in excess of 3.5 per cent, substantially faster than was expected a year ago. And thanks to the American locomotive, the world outside Asia and Japan has enjoyed a rate of growth - around 3 per cent - that compares favourably with the 2 per cent or so annual average this decade.

The key question is whether all this can last. For without America, one would need to look to Europe or Japan to take up the running.

As far as 1999 is concerned, the candid reply about America is "don't know". History is replete with examples of booms



BILL CLINTON
MARTIN GODLEY

that continue for longer than anyone expects - or, just as unpredictably, reverse into recession.

But looking ahead over the next few years, it seems to us wholly improbable that the United States could continue to act as the world's spender of last resort. Indeed, the medium-term outlook appears exceedingly bleak.

One reason is capacity. America's long recovery from its early 1990s recession has not been built on a miracle of technological advance, but rather on a substantial reduction in unemployment. Even allowing for efficiency improvements, it is unlikely that America could

sustain medium-term growth much above 2 per cent without running into bottlenecks.

But even more important than supply potential is the question of demand. In the face of a bigger budget surplus and a worsening trade performance, American demand has been kept alive by a tremendous burst of spending by households and companies well in excess of the advance in after-tax incomes. A now-unprecedented gap between private spending and income has been financed by lots of borrowing.

The impact on economic activity has been profound. In 1998, the volume of private spending probably rose by around 6 per cent, almost twice the increase in disposable income. Without this excess private spending and increased net borrowing, the economy would have stagnated.

Could this pattern of growth continue? The answer is a resounding "no". Without a fiscal boost, private spending would need to continue to rise faster than private income. The result would be a fabulous increase in

indebtedness, both domestic and overseas.

In a report just published by the Research Group at Phillips & Drew, we illustrate the dimensions of the problem. To keep the economy ticking along at a 2 per cent or so rate of growth, private spending would eventually need to exceed income by an amount equivalent to over 8 per cent of the gross domestic product, double the unprecedented 1998 level. Outstanding private debt would rise to over 30 per cent of GDP thanks to a large and widening trade gap. Evidently, the present pattern of American growth cannot continue. At some stage, private sector spending will subside to a rate at best equal to, and more probably below, the growth of incomes. If it had not already done so, the stock market bubble behind much of today's spending buoyancy would burst, amplifying the deflation.

Britain's experience before and after the late 1980s boom offers a parallel. Spurred by explosive house prices and financial deregulation, Britain's private sector overspent its income at the peak by 6 per cent of GDP. Nemesis came during the next three years as a deep and brutal recession. But even if we assume in America's case a much less marked reversion in saving behaviour, we find that the shock could potentially wipe out economic growth on average over the next five years.

The collateral damage to the rest of the world would be severe, but very unevenly distributed. Worst affected would be those economies heavily reliant on exports to America - Canada, Asia and Latin America. Thanks to their much lower exposure, Europe and Japan would suffer least from a US stagnation, although a further shock to a depressed Japan hardly bears contemplation.

But surely none of this could happen? Would not economic policy respond with vigour to the potential deflation and substantially cushion the blow? Our answer is "yes" and possibly "no". Yes, interest rates would be brought down swiftly - but in the advanced world there is not that much room for

And the 1998 winner is... Costa Rica!

News Analysis: Despite the worst global financial crisis in a quarter of a century, some stock markets provided sparkling returns

FORGET UK blue chips, US industrials and Far Eastern growth stocks. If you wanted to make serious money on the stock markets in 1998, Costa Rican equities and European high-technology stocks were the ones to go for. If you bet on companies in Russia, China or Venezuela, however, you probably lost your shirt.

The tiny Costa Rican exchange was the stock market star of 1998, soaring in value by almost 90 per cent - six times greater than the percentage gain in the UK's FTSE 100.

Easdaq, the fledgling European market for high-technology stocks, came a close second, gaining almost 80 per cent. Anyone who put their money in Finnish equities should also have come up smelling of roses. The Hex General Index soared by 30 per cent, far outperforming stock markets elsewhere in Scandinavia.

The key to the success of Costa Rica - as well as several other smaller emerging equity markets such as Panama, Ghana and Morocco - was that investors were forced to look for new sources of high returns after the collapse of equity markets in the more familiar emerging economies such as Brazil and Mexico. The relative illiquidity of these smaller markets was another important factor.

Michael Hughes of Baring Asset Management said: "People are moving away from the core emerging markets and looking at markets they were not allowed to invest in or were not interested in before."

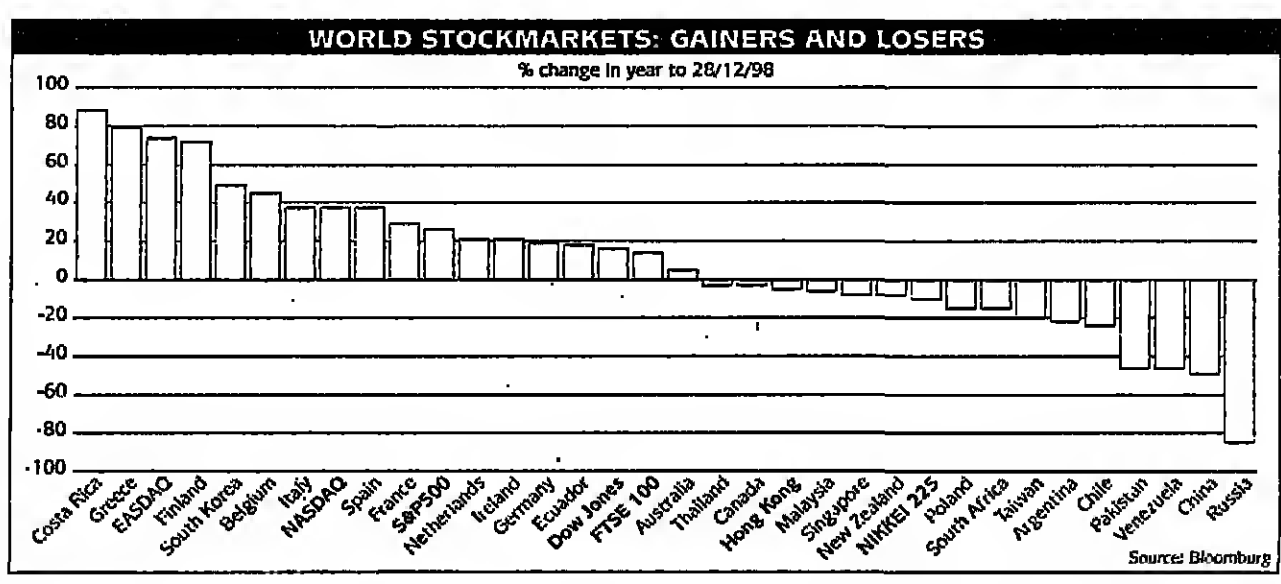
Another leading analyst said: "Costa Rica is a tiny market, and so its stock market index can be affected by small trades. Combine that with the fact that it's never had much investor interest before, and you can see how a few big buyers coming in can really move the market."

High-technology stocks were one of 1998's success stories. Nasdaq, the US high-tech market, had a good year - the benchmark Nasdaq composite index was up by almost 40 per cent. But it was outdone by companies listed on Easdaq, Nasdaq's European equivalent. Investors realised there was value to be had in telecommunication and IT companies based in Europe.

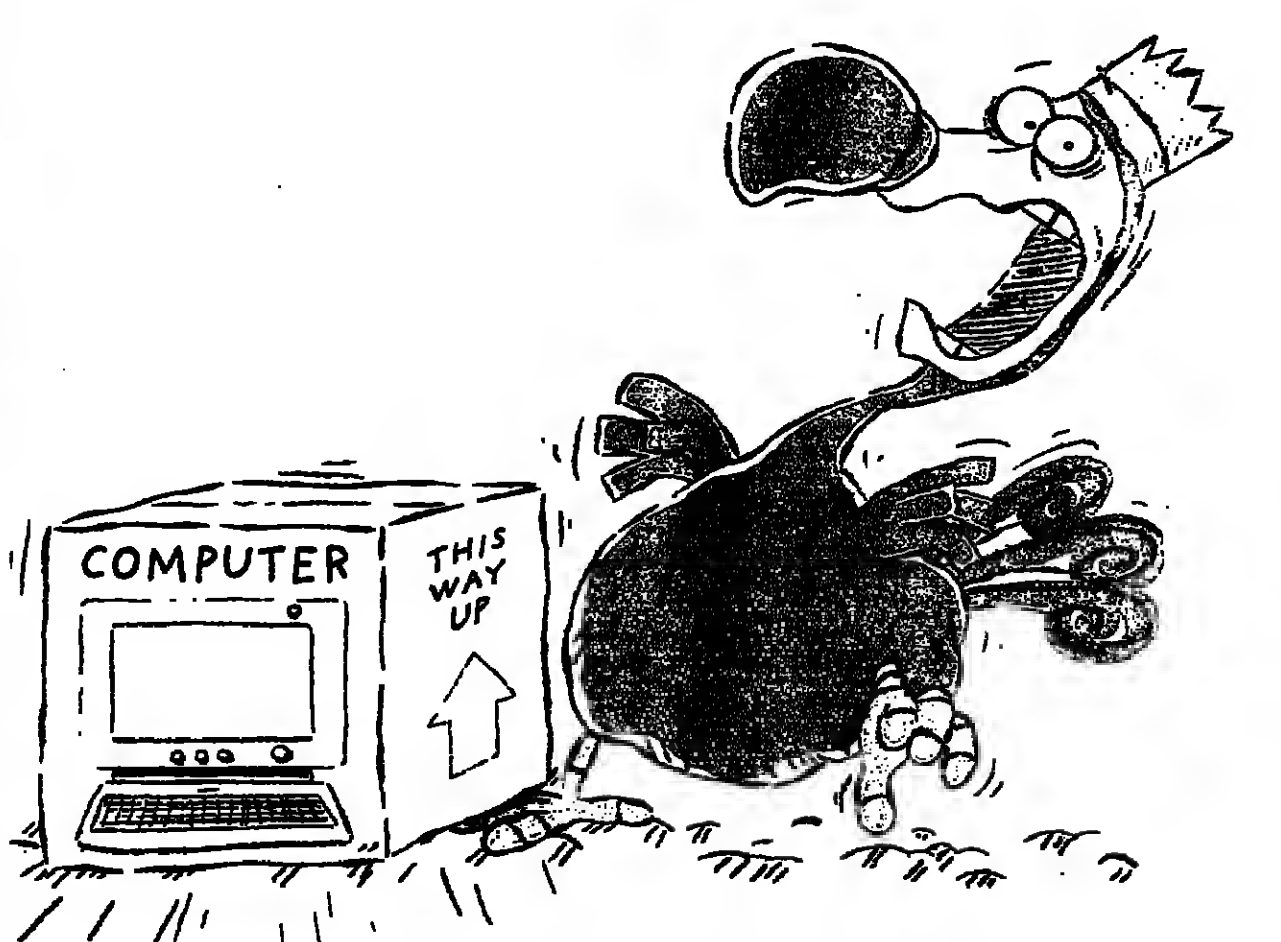
Mr Hughes said: "Internet usage began to explode in 1998, and a lot of telecoms stocks - which benefited from increased Internet connections - did well."

The boom in European high-tech stocks helped Finland where Nokia, the mobile phone company, accounts for 50 per cent of the market. But this was not the only reason why Finnish stocks boomed - the advent of economic and monetary union in Europe also played a role.

Sharda Persaud at Paribas said: "At the start of 1998, there were a lot of things people didn't know about Finland. One of these was whether Finland was going to make the first round of



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Rugby union becoming closed to the professions

HERE IS one wish for 1999. It is, I am afraid, little more than a wish, a pious hope, but it may be worth setting down all the same. It is that the administrators, the clubs' new owners, the players and the supporters, all come to some collective agreement that rugby union cannot and ought not to be a fully professionalised sport - any more than rugby league is, or cricket should be, if that game's controllers could see further than their noses.

Some hope. The pride of too many people is by now too much involved. I do not understand why such figures as Sir John Hall, Ashley Levett, Nigel Wray and Chris Wright



ALAN WATKINS

should want to throw their money away. They might just as well have a bonfire of fine old English banknotes in the back garden every Saturday night. This is evidently what they

want to do, however, for much the same reason, I suppose, that leads other people to want to own newspapers. Their proprietorship gives them an importance, a position in society - or so they hope - which they would otherwise not possess.

The prestige of leading players has remained unaffected by professionalisation. Indeed, in the Celtic nations it has probably declined. There are no real modern equivalents of Barry John or Bloddy Williams. Andy Irvine or Gavin Hastings, Mike Gibson or Willie John McBride, to name but a few. The supply of heroes has dried up. It is perhaps significant that England's one

recent attempt to create a hero of their own in the person of Will Carling should have ended in 1998 in such ignominious failure.

But unlike some commentators, I do not stigmatise the leading players of today, distinctly on the anti-heroic side though some of them may be, as "greedy." If the money is on offer, they are entitled to take it. It is not they who have created a false market which depends on the beneficence of a few rich men, notably Rupert Murdoch and of various more shadowy figures at the BBC and in ITV.

One sadness is that rugby at the highest level is becoming

closed to graduates generally and, in particular, those who intend to follow the profession of medicine or the law. True, barristers have never been especially thick on the ground in top-class rugby, with a few exceptions such as Carl Aarvold of England and Rowe Harding of Wales. But there have been solicitors all over the place, like moths in old hanks.

The best known recent example was that unorthodox creature, Brian Moore. Paradoxically, it was Moore who, more than any other player - through his justified intransigence with the England authorities - saw in the new age. He was, if he will forgive the

metaphor, the midwife, even though he had to abandon the child on account partly of his advancing years and partly of his profession. He told me a year or so ago that it would be impossible for him, or for anyone, to be at once a practising solicitor and a professional rugby player.

The same applies to medical students or practitioners. In 1947 the England centres were two students from St Mary's Hospital, Nigel Bennett and Keith Scott. They were succeeded by a greater player, Lewis Cannel, of the same hospital. Perhaps the last of the line was Mike Hutton, of Richmond, who was playing along

side Allan Bateman (a former medical laboratory technician) in the centre only months ago but has now retired to concentrate on his duties at Kingston Hospital.

If it had not been for his terrible injury, Gwyn Jones would still be playing. In a recent interview he said that if it had not been for the accident, he would have taken a few years off from his medical studies to concentrate wholly on rugby instead.

Jones must be assumed to know his own business, and both his parents are doctors, too. But I very much doubt whether it is possible to take two or three years out of a med-

ical course and then pick it up at the point at which you put it down.

Schoolteachers are in a better position to start life again because their course is shorter, and they can be qualified in their early 20s. Even so, to devote the rest of that decade of their lives to professional rugby leaves them behind those colleagues who had already started their careers.

And will Dean Richards, the current manager of Leicester, ever go back to the beat? I wish him well. But I also know that many of his younger colleagues will be asking themselves "what do I do next?" once 34 hoves into view.

Jacke comes up trumps for the Cards

THE ARIZONA Cardinals have not won a play-off game since 1947, have failed to win their division since 1975, and last qualified for post-season play 16 years ago. For much of their long but less than illustrious history they have come to embody futility and ineptitude. In this, their centenary year, things are finally changing because the Cardinals are through to the play-offs following an extraordinary 16-13 triumph over the San Diego Chargers.

The Cards were aware that destiny lay in their own hands - a win, and they were in. In typical Arizona fashion they made heavy work of it all, and the game appeared set for overtime when the San Diego quarterback, Craig Whelihan, threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Thelwell with just 16 seconds remaining.

Instead, Eric Metcalf, a former Charger, returned the ensuing kick-off into San Diego territory, and as time expired Chris Jacke converted a 51-yard field goal to send the long-suffering Cardinals' fans into delirium.

Ironically, Jacke had earlier missed two far simpler attempts, but he seems to thrive on pressure - this was the third week in a row that he had won a game with a kick in the dying seconds.

Arizona probably deserve their moment in the spotlight. Their promising young quar-

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY NICK HALLING

terback, Jake Plummer, showed glimpses of why the franchise has elected to pay him a staggering \$29.7m (£18.2m) over the next four years, while Kwame Lassiter equalled an NFL record with four interceptions of the wretched Whelihan. On this evidence, Arizona's involvement in the post season will be terminated by the Dallas Cowboys, their opponents next week.

It was another weekend of record-setting achievements around the league. The Minnesota Vikings became only the third team to win 15 games in a season with their 26-16 success against the Tennessee Oilers. Their kicker, Gary Anderson, successfully converted three field goals and two extra-point attempts to become the first player in history not to miss a kick all season.

The Atlanta Falcons were too strong for the Miami Dolphins, prevailing 36-16. Running back Jamal Anderson gained 103 yards while establishing a new record for most rushing attempts in a season - the overworked Anderson finished with 410 carries, breaking a 16-year-old record.

Once again, the Falcons were inspired by their ailing coach, Dan Reeves, who un-

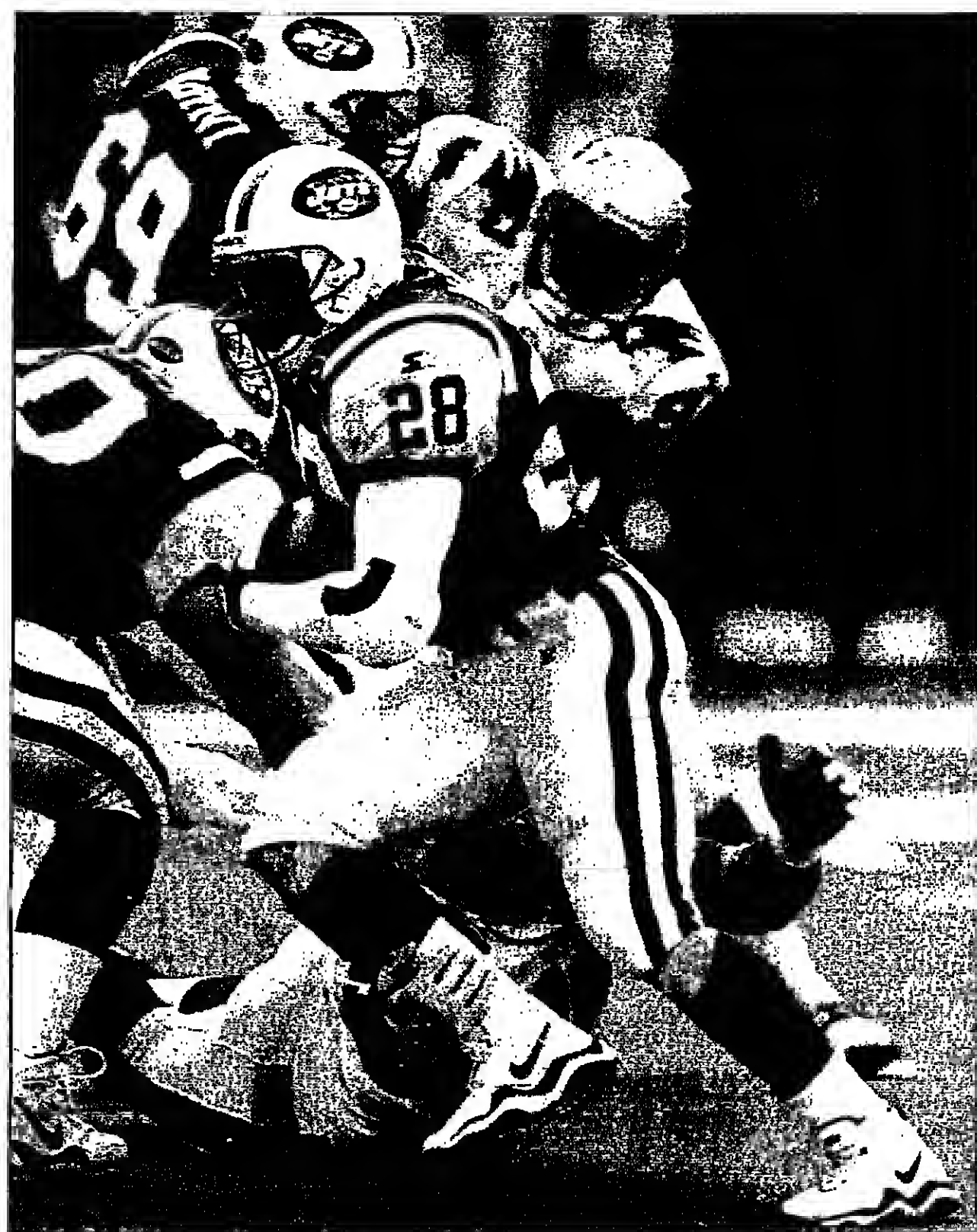
derwent quadruple heart bypass surgery two weeks ago, yet left hospital to make a speech to his players before the game. "It was definitely a motivating factor for us," said the Atlanta quarterback, Chris Chandler.

The Denver Broncos returned to winning ways with a 28-21 victory over the Seattle Seahawks. Having won their first 13 matches, the current Super Bowl champions needed a win to settle their nerves after two successive losses. John Elway produced four touchdown passes, and running back Terrell Davis gained 178 yards, thereby becoming only the fourth player ever to rush for 2,000 yards in a season.

The Broncos remain favoured to retain their title, but stern opposition may come from the rejuvenated New York Jets. After losing their first two matches, the Jets have won 12 of their last 14, with the veteran quarterback, Vinny Testaverde, enjoying an unprecedented level of success.

Testaverde threw four more scoring passes in the Jets' 31-10 humbling of the New England Patriots to finish his campaign with 29 touchdowns.

The off-season purge of coaches began yesterday when Dom Capers of Carolina Panthers, Dave Wannstedt of Chicago Bears, Ted Marchibroda of Baltimore Ravens and Ray Rhodes of Philadelphia Eagles were all fired.



Curtis Martin, the New York Jets running back, powers his way to 103 rushing yards against New England Patriots AP

Barbarians are out to restore their old image

THE GHOST of Christmas past was making a long-delayed appearance in Leicester this afternoon in the cosmopolitan shape of 15 Barbarians, some of them instantly recognisable and others rather less likely to have their progress through the East Midlands obstructed by autograph-hungry youngsters. The traditional festive bash may have the word "anachronism" stamped all over it, but given that last season's fixture

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

was shifted unceremoniously to an anonymous date in mid-March, today's proceedings are something of a triumph for Mickey Steele-Bodger and his fellow selectors.

At one time, it was easier to break into the Baa-Baa committee's beloved East India Club without a tie than lay a

hand of one of the famous hooped shirts with which they have anointed the finest rugby talents in the world.

Sadly, the most famous invitation side of them all no longer command the same respect; not since 1995 has the annual Christmas match at Welford Road actually been played at Christmas and as a general rule the selectors now have to work overtime simply to raise a team.

To their credit, they will put something very decent before a 12,000-plus crowd this afternoon: three fine Italians - Massimo Cuttitta, Christian Stoica and the national captain, Massimo Giovannelli - are joined by a fistful of Scots, Craig Chalmers and Scott Hastings included, and Ireland's Eric Miller, who earlier this season left Leicester for the familiar comforts of home. In response, the Tigers include Martin John-

son, Austin Healey, Richard Cockerill, Neil Back and, for dessert as it were, a prop partnership of Graham Rowntree and Derek Jelley. Dean Richards, the coach, is said to be demanding a wobble-free scrum.

"This fixture remains a big thing for me; I would have been 11 or 12 when I watched my first Baa-Baas game at Welford Road and I know how much the people of Leicester

love it," said Johnson yesterday. "Certainly, I would resist any move to abandon the fixture. I think we have a duty to put out a strong team and to perform well because a lot of those coming to watch us play themselves and therefore rarely get a chance to take in a Premiership match. Both teams will move the ball and hopefully everyone will get a buzz out of it."

There was not much in the

way of a buzz at Saracens yesterday as the fall-out from last weekend's startling 24-7 home defeat by London Scottish began to kick in.

Kyran Bracken, the cup holders' international scrum-half, will sit out the next three weeks with concussion while Alain Penaud, their French stand-off, is doubtful for Sunday's Premiership match with Bedford because of a "dead" leg.

SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

SKI HOTLINE							
Resort	Area open	Comment	Slopes (cm)	Last snow	Temp	Forecast	
ANDORRA							
Pa	90%	Upper runs good	55	80	20.12	-2C	Changeable
AUSTRIA							
Soll	100%	Hoch Salve great	25	75	21.12	-2C	Cloudy, mild
Zell Am Ziller	80%	Good higher up	5	45	23.12	-2C	Cloudy
CANADA							
Tremblant	50%	Snow making	15	30	27.12	-5C	Brighter
FRANCE							
Crest Voland	20%	A few runs open	25	45	21.12	1C	Some cloud
Les Menuires	80%	Upper runs good	40	100	24.12	2C	Cloudier
ITALY							
Bardonecchia	20%	Only partly open	10	40	21.12	-2C	Light snow
La Villa	75%	10cm fresh snow	15	40	20.12	-7C	Cloudier
NORWAY							
Norredal	18%	Packed snow	20	30	08.12	-5C	Fine
SWITZERLAND							
Verbier	95%	Mont Fort excellent	15	80	24.12	4C	Cloudy
UNITED STATES							
Sugarbush	30%	Packed powder	25	75	20.12	-10C	Bright

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

AMERICAN FOOTBALL							
NFL	Atlanta	35	Miami	16	Baltimore	19	
	Detroit	10	Chicago	13	Green Bay	16	
	Cincinnati	0	San Francisco	35	Indianapolis	19	
	Carolina	27	New Orleans	33	Buffalo	45	
	NY Jets	31	New England	10	Philadelphia	10	
	10 NY Giants	26	San Francisco	38	St Louis	15	
	Seattle	16	San Diego	13	Denver	28	
	Seattle	21	Dallas	23	Washington	7	
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE							
EASTERN DIVISION							
New York Jets	10	6	416	266			
Buffalo	10	6	400	393			
New England	9	7	337	329			
Indianapolis	3	13	310	444			
CENTRAL DIVISION							
Jacksonville	10	5	371	335			
Cincinnati	8	8	330	320			
Pittsburgh	7	8	280	285			
Baltimore	6	10	269	395			
Cleveland	3	13	268	452			
WESTERN DIVISION							
Denver	8	8	372	310			
Seattle	8	8	358	356			
Oakland	8	8	358	356			
San Diego	5	11	241	342			
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE							
EASTERN DIVISION							
Dallas	14	2	501	393			
San Francisco	12	4	479	378			
New Orleans	6	10	305	359			
Carolina	5	12	336	413			
St Louis	4	12	285	279			
CENTRAL DIVISION							
Atlanta	15	5	556	296			
Green Bay	11	5	408	310			
Detroit	8	8	314	378			
Washington	6	10	319	421			
Philadelphia	3	13	161	344			
WESTERN DIVISION							
San Francisco	12	4	479	378			
New Orleans	6	10	305	359			
Carolina	5	12	336	413			
St Louis	4	12	285	279			

DARTS			
SINGL PDC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP			
(Circus Tavern, Purfleet) First round:			
S Brown (UK) vs K Spinks (Eng) 3-1; C			
Lazarenko (Eng) vs D Alsop (UK) 3-0; M			
Manning (Eng) vs D Layton (UK) 3-1; G			
Stewart (Eng) vs S Row (Eng) 3-1.			
FOOTBALL			
Oleg Romanov, the head coach of Russian champions Spartak Moscow, took charge of the national team for the second time yesterday. He succeeds Anatoly Byshovets, who was sacked after five months in charge.			
FA CUP AND PREMIERSHIP Fixtures			
Championship: Sun 21: Arsenal v Chelsea (from 20 min).			
ICE HOCKEY			
NHL: Edmonton 3 Vancouver 0; Calgary 1 Colorado 2.			
SWEDISH SUPERLEAGUE (Wednesday): Ayr 5 Nottingham 4 (ft); Bracknell 5 Sheffield 4; Cardiff 2 Newcastle 3 (ft); London 2 Manchester 7.			
MOTOR CYCLING			
The former world motor cycling champion Ricardo Tomic died of			

leukemia on Sunday at the age of 46. Tomic won the 50cc world title in 1978 and 1981.

RUGBY UNION

JERSEY NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE: Liverpool 13, Hales 15; Manchester 40, Reading 6; Hales 36, Rochdale 15; Hales 36, Rochdale 15; Hales 36, Rochdale 15.

JERSEY NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester	15	13	0	2	450	216	26
Hales	15	13	0	2	379	171	26
Reading	15	10	0	5	289	219	20
Hales Park	14	8	0	6	296	223	36
Lydney	15	8	0	7	278	267	16
Reading	15	8	0	7	321	321	16
Cauberry	15	7	1	7	304	369	15
Widnes	15	7	1	7	238	233	14
Widnes	15	7	1	7	232	241	14
Widnes	15	6	0	8	287	273	12
Widnes	14	6	0	8	250	258	12
Hales	15	4	1	10	160	260	8
Widnes	14	4	0	10	212	340	8
Liverpool	14	1	0	13	170	483	2

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE ONE: Aberystwyth 9, Newbridge 3. Postponed: Aberystwyth v Newbridge.

SATURDAY'S LEAGUE

Start: 26/12/78. The winning number: 26. Prize fund: £52,570,901. Prize Fund: £52,570,901.

NO. OF WINNERS

Prize	No. of winners
1st Prize	1
2nd Prize	1
3rd Prize	1
4th Prize	1
5th Prize	1
6th Prize	1
7th Prize	1
8th Prize	1
9th Prize	1
10th Prize	1
11th Prize	1
12th Prize	1
13th Prize	1
14th Prize	1
15th Prize	1
16th Prize	1
17th Prize	1
18th Prize	1
19th Prize	1
20th Prize	1
21st Prize	1
22nd Prize	1
23rd Prize	1
24th Prize	1
25th Prize	1
26th Prize	1
27th Prize	1
28th Prize	1
29th Prize	1
30th Prize	1
31st Prize	1
32nd Prize	1
33rd Prize	1
34th Prize	1
35th Prize	1
36th Prize	1
37th Prize	1
38th Prize	1
39th Prize	1
40th Prize	1
41st Prize	1
42nd Prize	1
43rd Prize	1
44th Prize	1
45th Prize	1
46th Prize	1
47th Prize	1
48th Prize	1
49th Prize	1
50th Prize	1
51st Prize	1
52nd Prize	1
53rd Prize	1
54th Prize	1
55th Prize	1
56th Prize	1
57th Prize	1
58th Prize	1
59th Prize	1
60th Prize	1
61st Prize	1
62nd Prize	1
63rd Prize	1
64th Prize	1
65th Prize	1
66th Prize	1
67th Prize	1
68th Prize	1
69th Prize	1
70th Prize	1
71st Prize	1
72nd Prize	1
73rd Prize	1
74th Prize	1
75th Prize	1
76th Prize	1
77th Prize	1
78th Prize	1
79th Prize	1
80th Prize	1
81st Prize	1
82nd Prize	1
83rd Prize	1
84th Prize	1
85th Prize	1
86th Prize	1
87th Prize	1
88th Prize	1
89th Prize	1
90th Prize	1
91st Prize	1
92nd Prize	1
93rd Prize	1
94th Prize	1
95th Prize	1
96th Prize	1
97th Prize	1
98th Prize	1
99th Prize	1
100th Prize	1

TENNIS VELVET BOWL			
First Round: Let's Acids 3 Hillfoots 3; 1.			
POSTPONED: Swalec Cup Fourth Round Group B: Cross Keys v Durnham; Group C: Clonville v Bedwas; AIS League Second Division: Dungeness v Malpas.			
SAILING			
Mike Golding of Team Group 4 has closed to within 140 miles of the Class 1 leader, Giovanni Soldini, with 700 miles to go on the second leg of the Around Alone Race from Cape Town to Auckland. Marc Thiercelin and Isabelle Autissier also reduced the gap, but fifth-placed Josh Hall is 1,000 miles behind Soldini. In the Class II race, second-placed Mike Garside is attempting to round the southern tip of Tasmania with Jean-Pierre Moligne clear ahead of him.			
SKIING			
MEN'S ALPINE WORLD CUP (Bormio, Italy) Downhill: Leading qualifying practice times: 1 H Maier (Aut) 1:56.11; 2 C Grotzer (Aut) 1:56.54; 3 S Eberhart (Aut) 1:56.94; 4 D Cuche (Swi) 1:56.96.			

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The report ad

Birmingham's Anthony Maynard is to challenge the defending champion, Billy Scher of Luton, for the European lightweight title at York Hall, London, on 16 January.

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.			
Draw date: 26/12/98. The winning numbers: 2, 8, 11, 32, 35, 41. Bonus number: 4.			
Total Sales: £52,570,901. Prize Fund: £23,656,905 (45% of ticket sales).			
CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£7,724,025	£7,724,025
Match 5 plus bonus ball	11	£216,056	£2,376,616
Match 5	841	£1,766	£1,485,206
Match 4	48,882	£89	£4,353,858
Match 3	880,301	£10	£8,803,010
TOTALS	928,036		£23,623,715

Total Sales including Instant and Wednesday Draw: £88,055,019.
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £25,100,000.

Breakage (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £33,190
© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

TODAY'S NUMBER

7

The number of non-white players, out of a total of 19, to win admission yesterday to South Africa's national cricket school, the Durban-based Plascon Academy. The 19 youngsters also include a fast bowler from Argentina.

Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail.

Pearl's worth remains undiscovered

BY GREG WOOD

THE TRUE message of Christmas as far as some punters is concerned is that Cheltenham is now less than three months' distant, and the festive spirit will soon give way to the Festival spirit as the three-day pinnacle of the jumps season draws ever closer.

It was certainly the only thought in anyone's mind for much of yesterday's Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown, as Florida Pearl threatened to produce a performance to rival that of Teeton Mill in Saturday's King George VI Chase. In the end, though, Florida Pearl was left sprawling on the turf at the third-last fence, and those who see him as an heir to Arkle can only wonder how the final furlongs might have unfolded.

Florida Pearl was still full of running as he and Richard Dunwoody approached the obstacle, but while his jockey saw a stride, the horse did not. Florida Pearl put his front feet down when they should have been up and over, and Dunwoody had no chance of staying in the saddle. Dorans Pride, himself the focus of many Irish hopes at recent Festivals, was left to gallop home alone, although Paul Carberry, his rider, deserves great credit for surviving a blunder almost as desperate as that by Florida Pearl six fences from home. Sunny Bay, the top-rated chaser in Britain, was a faller too, though he was thoroughly beaten when he came down at the second-last.

Opinions were divided afterwards, not least among the bookmakers, who offer odds ranging from 8-1 to 12-1 against Dorans Pride for the Gold Cup, a race in which he has finished third for the past two seasons.

Yet Florida Pearl's appearance as effortless as it was relentless until his mishap, just as it did when he beat Escartefigue in the Royal Sun Alliance Chase at last season's Festival. It was no surprise, then, to see him still quoted at a best-priced 5-1 for the Gold Cup, a point and a half behind the top odds about Teeton Mill. Bar those two, the odds are in double figures.

Florida Pearl's projected route to the Festival remains unchanged and he will race just once, in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown in February, before the main event on 18 March. "I was delighted with the way Florida Pearl settled and was travelling," Dunwoody, who abandoned Dorans Pride to take the ride yesterday, said. "Going



The grey Kendal Cavalier holds off Fiddling The Facts and Forest Ivory for a 14-1 success in yesterday's Welsh National at Chepstow

Robert Hallam

into the third last, I was pleased that I had made the right choice." Dorans Pride, meanwhile, is not expected to run at all before the Festival, but since he has now won 24 races and more than £500,000 in prize-money, there is no reason for his owner to be greedy.

The Irish will also travel in hope, perhaps even expectation, of victories from three other runners at Leopardstown yesterday. Commanche Court, the Triumph Hurdle winner of 1997, gave 10th and an emphatic beating to Miltonfield in the Christmas Hurdle and will now be trained for the Stayers' Hurdle, while To Your Honour

and Nick Dundee will be major contenders for the Royal Sun Alliance Hurdle and Chase respectively.

It was not Cheltenham but Aintree which appeared on the horizon after the Welsh National at Chepstow, where Kendal Cavalier outstayed Fiddling The Facts to win at 14-1. Afterwards, the grey was caked in mud, just like Barry Fenton, his jockey, but neither will complain if similar conditions prevail on Grand National day in April.

Kendal Cavalier was winning just days after changing stables, moving from Rod Millman to Nigel Hawke, whose

second-tier career as a jump jockey included just one notable highlight, when Seagram won the National in 1991.

Three fences out, it seemed that Fiddling The Facts was going best of all, but Fenton and

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Joe Buzz
(Musselburgh 2.25)
NB: High Thyme
(Haydock 3.05)

Kendal Cavalier quickened past on the run to the second-last, and then held on grimly in the heavy ground.

"I have got to give Rod the

credit," Hawke said, "the horse won four races for him last season, but he wanted a change of scenery and it has done the job. We were 13th out of the handicap, but he was suited by the trip, the ground and the track. He is not the quickest in the world, but he does keep galloping, and he might be a National horse."

Earth Summit, who started 9-2 favourite, and Dom Samourai, another well-fancied runner, both ran poorly. The stewards were told that the former will be re-fitted with blinkers for his next run, although punters might wonder why they were left off yesterday.

Dom Samourai, meanwhile, never got into the race after missing the break, something for which the starter must take at least some responsibility.

The feature event at Kempton, the Christmas Hurdle, was won in a canter by French Holly, whose trainer, Ferdy Murphy, paid for this Christmas, and probably the next few as well with a bet on his horse at the early odds of 11-4.

"I had my biggest bet," he said. "The other horse [Dato Star, the favourite] has only run right-handed once before and he got murdered when he did. It was a two-horse race and I thought 11-4 was unbelievable."

French Holly will run next in the AIG Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown as a prep for the Champion Hurdle, for which he is now the clear 7-1 second-favourite behind Istabraq, who runs at Leopardstown today.

French Holly was partnered yesterday by Andrew Thornton, who had one of the most remarkable afternoons of his career. After winning the first race at Kempton, he gave up his next two rides, complaining that he was "dehydrated and had a bit of flu", before returning to ride not only French Holly, but two more winners as well.

"It's surprising what you



Fenton: Mud-spattered

can do with yourself," he said. "But I'm fine now, I'm feeling on top of the world."

Stack's condition starts to stabilise

THE CONDITION of Tommy Stack has reportedly stabilised although the trainer remains in hospital in Co Cork with a viral infection. One of Ireland's top trainers, Stack was taken into hospital in a critical condition over the weekend.

A spokeswoman at Stack's Thomastown Castle base in Co Tipperary said: "The doctors are happy with his progress. There has been some improvement and his condition has stabilised."

Stack, 53, has held a training licence since 1986. The highlights of his career include the victory of Las Meninas in the

1,000 Guineas of 1994 and Tarascon's triumph in this year's Irish 1,000 Guineas.

Stack was twice champion National Hunt jockey but the high point of his riding career came when he steered Red Rum to the horse's record third Grand National win in 1977.

Cumbrian Challenge provided a shock for followers of the form book when winning the Castleford Chase at Wetherby yesterday at 16-1 from Direct Route. The nine-year-old's performances this season gave little cause for optimism and only two days ago he had been beaten more than 30 lengths.

IT MAY SAY on the gate that David Nicholson brains at Jackdaws Castle, but to Adrian Maguire, his stable jockey, they must look more like vultures. Maguire's position with Nicholson has been the subject of sustained speculation over the past few days, and the man who both owns the yard and employs Nicholson and Maguire admitted yesterday that rumours of the rider's dismissal or demotion were a "mess" that needed to be sorted out.

Colin Smith, whose company, Ford Farm Racing, is ultimately in charge at Nicholson's stable, said that "Adrian and myself will be having talks in

BY GREG WOOD

the next few days, maybe this evening. But if Adrian jacks it in as stable jockey at the yard in the next few days over what's been happening - and I don't blame him if he does - there will be no retained jockey at the yard for the rest of this season and possibly next season as well."

Maguire's position at Jackdaws Castle is thought to be under threat from Richard Johnson, currently Nicholson's No.2 jockey. "If Adrian steps down there are still plenty of owners in the yard who will want him to ride their horses,"

Smith said. "Admittedly there are a few owners, such as Darren Mercer, who owns Escartefigue, and Roger Baines, who owns Zafarabad, who want Richard Johnson to ride for them. But that does not mean that Richard is the new No.1 jockey at Jackdaws Castle, or that he will be."

Speaking before setting out to ride Forest Ivory, who finished third in the Welsh National at Chepstow, Maguire commented, seemingly only half in jest - that he had been "rubbish" yesterday morning when told me I was out of a job, so he obviously knows more than I do."

Suave Dancer killed by lightning strike

SUAVE DANCER, the brilliant winner of the Prix du Jockey Club and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 1991, has been killed by lightning in Melbourne.

A sire whose duties alternated between the northern and southern hemispheres, and half owned by the National Stud, Suave Dancer was found dead in his paddock on Christmas Eve. He had recently completed his breeding season in Australia and was in quarantine being prepared to return to Newmarket.

Henri Chalhou, who owned Suave Dancer during his racing career and had retained a half

share in the sire, said: "I am very sorry and touched by the news. This horse gave me so much pleasure and success."

Suave Dancer was trained by the Chantilly-based John Hammond, who yesterday remembered Suave Dancer's racing qualities: "He had outstanding acceleration which he could switch on and switch off. One is always lucky to have a horse of that calibre."

Among Suave Dancer's successful offspring in Europe is this year's runner-up in the Sotario Stakes, Compton Admiral, who is being aimed at the 1999 Derby.

Snow goes at Carlisle

TOMORROW'S MEETING at Carlisle has been abandoned. Conditions at the track have deteriorated over the past few days and the clerk of the course, Johnny Fenwick-Clenell, yesterday said: "There is half an inch of snow on the course and it wasn't raceable before the snow came."

Today's card at Musselburgh is also under threat as it is subject to a 7.30am inspection. A course spokesman said: "The forecasters say that temperatures could get down to -2 overnight - then showers are forecast which should break any frost."

TAUNTON

HYPERION

12.50 Polar Champ 1.20 Rollcall 1.50 Top Skipper (nb) 2.20 Dragon King 2.50 Cento 3.20 Glaisnock 3.50 Cassia

GOING: Good to Soft (Soft in places).
12-Right-hand course. Run-in of 150yds.
13-Course is S of town on 5070. Taunton station 3m. ADMIS-
SION: Members 10p, Ladies 5p, Children 2p. 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Armstrong treble traumatises Everton

TWO MINUTES from the end of Tottenham's best victory of the season, the 36,053 spectators present witnessed an unusual scene as Chris Armstrong, whose second-half hat-trick turned the game, was substituted. His route to the touchline was momentarily blocked by a team-mate bowing in the "We Are Not Worried" routine - none other than David Ginola.

To earn such praise from the Frenchman, who is not backward in coming forward with expressions of impatience or

despair with fellow team members, Armstrong had given a convincing demonstration of goalscoring instinct in the space of 20 minutes to decide a contest which appeared to be heading for a stalemate.

After 62 minutes he followed in a chipped pass from Darren Anderton and rounded Everton's keeper, Thomas Myhre, before shooting Tottenham into a 2-1 lead from an acute angle.

Having got his eye in at last, after a number of hesitant efforts in the first half, Armstrong was clearly on a roll. And when Tottenham's promising central defender Luke Young drilled the ball through the heart of the Everton defence to send Armstrong in on goal with his striking partner Les Ferdinand, goal number three was clearly imminent. A neat backheel by Ferdinand then sent Armstrong clear of the last de-

fender and free to drive home a powerful shot.

Armstrong completed the first Tottenham treble since Jürgen Klinsmann rounded off last season with four goals against Wimbledon when he was sent clear on the right by Anderton's pass. Jubilation for Tottenham; desperation for an Everton side who had seemed equal to their challenge.

Walter Smith criticised a linesman and referee Graham Poll for allowing Armstrong's first goal. "It was a clear hand-

Bottom two show appetite for fight

BY NICK HARRIS

Nottingham Forest 1
Southampton 1

THE PREMIERSHIP'S bottom two sides brought a new meaning to the term "relegation dogfight" yesterday by sharing the points after 90 minutes of the scrappiest play seen anywhere this season.

At one stage in the second half - after Southampton's Hassan Kachoul had given his side the lead with a header and then Steve Chettle had levelled with a penalty - the match literally descended into a fight.

Southampton's French defender, Patrick Colletier, went to retrieve a dead ball from the Forest dug-out, but instead of returning with it he received a shove from a player sitting on the home bench.

Seeing his team-mate in trouble, Kachoul waded into the fray. Most of the Forest bench and several players from each side piled in, arms flying. It took about two minutes for the referee, Mike Reed - who did not book anyone over the incident - to break up the mêlée, and play was able to resume.

As an example of the kind of action witnessed yesterday, it was appropriate. For all the football that took place it might well have been better to put all the players in the centre circle and let them have it out with a bare knuckle dust-up.

"It was a full-blooded, hard fought match," Dave Jones, the Southampton manager, said afterwards. "There were no punches thrown, just some shoving and pushing," he added of the touchline fracas.

"The most important thing today for us was not to lose the game," he added. "Both teams were fully committed. They wanted to win."

Dave Bassett, Jones' counterpart, summarised the game in a similar fashion, praising both sets of players for their spirit and saying the confrontation around the dug-out was "just some handbags and some verbal".

Despite a protest outside, calling for his own head and for those of the Forest board, he said: "It's frustrating where we are. But we've got to get on with what we've got."

The first real chance of the game came after 10 minutes when Egil Olsenstad controlled the ball in the box, managing to spin around and attempt a shot from five yards. Unfortunately for him, he hit it straight into the chest of the former Saints goalkeeper, Dave Beasant.

Fifteen minutes later, the man who replaced him at The Dell, Paul Jones, nearly gifted the home side a lead. A Dougie Freedman shot was skied by Ken Monkou, and Jones, under no pressure and with several seconds to steady himself for the falling ball, let it slip through his arms. Somehow the defenders scrambled it away as Freedman pounced.

Goalmouth scrambles and sloppy missed chances occurred at both ends in both halves but there was no breakthrough until Kachoul got on the end of a corner three minutes into the second half to put the visitors ahead.

Five minutes later, after Forest were given a penalty for a Jones challenge on Freedman as he ran for goal, Chettle equalised with a penalty. The match, like both sides' chances of Premiership survival, then slid rapidly downhill.

Nottingham Forest (4-4-2): Beasant; Hodge, Chettle, Gernon, Rogers; Stone, Bonalair, Johnson, Williams; Freedman (Haweswood, 75); Shipperley. Substitutes not used: Louis-Jean, Armstrong, Gray, Crossley (gk).

Southampton (4-4-2): Jones; Colletier; Lundevorn, Monkou, Hiley; Kachoul; Palmer, Galloway, Dodd; O'Brien, Beattie. Substitutes not used: Bridge, Work, O'Brien, Basham, Srengegaard (gk). Referee: M Reed (Birmingham). Bookings: Southampton: Palmer, Stone, Freedman. Nottingham: Palmer, Kachoul. Man of the match: Stone. Attendance: 23,456.

Arsenal rise but Vieira falls again

ARSENAL ENDED 1998 much as they spent it, winning matches and losing players. Going off yesterday were Dennis Bergkamp and Nigel Winterburn with injuries and Patrick Vieira with a red card for violent conduct. After this trio of departures, the champions took a lead and held it. Plus ça change.

BY GLENN MOORE
Charlton Athletic 0
Arsenal 1

senal's striking options look very thin. Charlton's, however, are even slimmer, and for them 1999 promises nothing but misery. The dramatic accession to the Premiership last May, and the vibrant start in August, are fond but distant memories.

After seven successful defeats a return to the First Division appears imminent.

If they go down it will be for a chronic lack of goals with yesterday's match a microcosm of the season. As usual they were without luck, Redfearn hitting the bar in the sixth minute, but they also failed to create much or convert anything. The last 40 minutes were spent almost entirely in Arsenal's half, but the only time Alex Manninger made a save of note the ball was already going wide.

Alan Curbishley has a modest amount to spend, about £2.5m, but is struggling to find a striker who fits both the playing and wages bill. With Clive Mendonca and Andy Hunt out with flu - not that either have much troubled defences - yesterday's attack was led by Steve Jones, a game but limited trier.

"The ball was hobbling around in the six-yard box on a couple of occasions and perhaps other teams would have hooked them in. We didn't and perhaps that's why we are where we are," said Curbishley. He added: "We played quite well

and deserved something, but I won't hark on about that again, we just hope for the hit of luck everyone needs."

Dame Fortune was yesterday wearing black, with Rennie giving Arsenal one penalty and denying Charlton another. From a distance it looked as if he got both decisions right. Charlton's claim came after five minutes when Martin Keown brought down Jones. Seven minutes into the second period, a minute after Vieira's dismissal, Mark Kinsella upended Ray Parlour with a similar tackle. This time the penalty was given and Marc Overmars scored.

Apart from a shot against the bar after 21 seconds by Luis Boa Morle, two decent saves by Sasa Ilic from Bergkamp and the odd scramble in the Arsenal box that was it. Arsenal are better at defending a lead than anybody and, with Martin Keown outstanding, they always looked like doing so.

"We needed great solidarity and good organisation," said Wenger. "The players deserve a lot of credit, it was a huge performance physically and mentally."

Wenger added that he was "concerned" about Vieira's response to his dismissal. "It could take away his confidence. I hope he does not lose his aggression, it is part of his game. He is a young player, he has improved his discipline a lot and I am not sure he deserved to be sent off. He was destroyed psychologically."

As well as his dismissals,



Arsenal's Christopher Wreh takes the ball away from Chris Powell, of Charlton, yesterday. David Ashdown

Vieira has received 28 bookings in his two-and-a-half seasons with Arsenal and may now receive a four-match ban.

For all Wenger's protestations of innocence, the disciplinary problems of Vieira and his team-mates cannot be just down to referees. So far Arsenal have overcome the suspensions, but they may eventually cost them a trophy.

Goal: Overmars (pen 53) 0-1. Charlton Athletic (4-4-1-1): Ric Mills, Rufus, Youds, Powell; Newton, K Jones (Lisbie, 67), Kinsella, Robinson; Redfern (Parker, 80); S Jones. Substitutes not used: Brown, Threl, Royce (gk).

Arsenal (4-4-2): Manninger; Dixon, Keown, Soud, Winterburn (Vias, 29); Parlour, Vieira, Peet, Overmars; Bergkamp (Wreh, 42), Boa Morle (Grimmond, 61). Substitutes not used: Little (gk), Gards. Referee: U Rennie (Sheffield). Sending-off: Arsenal: Vieira. Bookings: Charlton: Robinson, K Jones, Youds, Redfern, Kinsella. Arsenal: Keown, Bergkamp. Man of the match: Keown. Attendance: 20,043.

Wanchope off in flare-up

DERBY, with one striker sent off and another possibly getting his send-off, grabbed an unlikely late winner at the end of the most eventful of matches at Pride Park. A record crowd for the new stadium saw Jonathan Hunt come on as a substitute after 83 minutes and, two minutes later and with his first real touch, he steered the ball past Mark Schwarzer for a victory Derby deserved for their excellent football in the first half and their grim determination in the second.

BY DAVE HADFIELD
Derby County 2
Middlesbrough 1

flare-up, looked at least equally guilty and could consider himself fortunate only to be booked.

For the 43 minutes that Wanchope was on the field, he and Dean Sturridge, playing what could be his last match for the club amid mounting transfer speculation, rediscovered the flair and mutual understanding that made their partnership such a menace last season.

They had already driven Middlesbrough close to distraction by the time that was fashioned the opening goal. Paul Gascoigne, who had set up the first chance of the match missed by Hamilton Ricard but almost turned into his own net

by Spencer Prior, was at fault this time. He duffed on the ball too long in midfield and, harried by Wanchope, underhit his pass to Townsend, allowing County to grab possession and break away. Wanchope's pass for the supporting Sturridge was weighted perfectly and the shot over the advancing Schwarzer was equally good.

Gascoigne, eager to make amends, twice shimmied his way through the Derby defence for shots on goal in the next few minutes but was then substituted, along with Phil Stamp, four minutes before the break.

Of the two, it was Stamp who looked the more surprised and disgruntled, although apart from his one blameworthy Gascoigne had been by far Derby's most creative player. They certainly looked in need of him in

the second half as they struggled to break down a depleted home side, although they eventually succeeded in doing so through one of their replacements, Mikkel Beck, in the 76th minute. Dean Gordon got free on the left and his precise cross found Beck, for once, completely unmarked.

It then seemed only a matter of time before Derby cracked again, but they had never stopped looking capable of hitting Middlesbrough on the break. They did just that with six minutes remaining. Sturridge, given a distinctly cool reception by the Derby fans at the start but now fully restored to hero status, got in the cross from the right. Darryl Powell nodded it down and there was Hunt to seal victory.

Goal: Sturridge (29) 1-0; Beck (77) 1-1; Hunt (85) 2-1.



Wanchope: Angry reaction

Derby County (3-5-2): Poom; Prior, Carbone, Elliot; Lauren, Bonin (Hunt, 59), Cordis, Eranio (Kobay, 71); Powell; Sturridge (Harpur, 88). Wanchope. Substitutes not used: Hault (gk), Christie. Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer; Cooper, Vickers, Peck; Sturridge (Maddison, 75), Samp (Beck, 41), Gascoigne (Fleming, 41), Townsend, Gordon, Deane. Ricard. Substitutes not used: Moore, Boursford (gk). Referee: P Harris (Oxford). Sending-off: Derby: Wanchope. Bookings: Middlesbrough: Townsend, Ricard, Sturridge. Man of the match: Sturridge. Attendance: 32,726.

Dons can boost Hegarty's claim

ABERDEEN LOOK to strengthen the claims of their stand-in manager, Paul Hegarty, for the job on a permanent basis with victory over Motherwell tonight.

The Dons have been transformed since the former Dundee United defender took charge following Alex Miller's departure and have reeled off three straight wins to climb away from the Scottish Premier League basement.

A fourth successive three-point haul at Pittodrie would be the first time any Aberdeen side had managed the feat for more than six years. Such a result would also see the Dons leapfrog Motherwell into fifth place.

The Aberdeen chairman, Stewart Milne, yesterday repeated his assertion that the Pittodrie board would continue to weigh up their options, and that there had been "no shortage of applications" for the post. But, with the support of the dressing-room behind him, Hegarty is emerging as a front-line contender to be handed the reins at least until the end of the season.

"The directors have told me that they are happy, but like everyone else I am waiting to see how the situation evolves," he said. "The players have been magnificent for me and I would like to thank them regardless of what might happen from here."

"They knew they had to raise the standard of their own games and they have really applied themselves so far. They have dug deep and shown a determination and resilience that was probably not there in the past."

Hegarty will have defender Gary Smith available after sus-

pension and will also have to decide whether to retain Derek Stille in goal when veteran Jim Leighton recovers from the flu that kept him out of Saturday's 2-1 win at Dunfermline.

Stille, a former Scotland Under-21 keeper, has played fewer than 20 games in eight seasons at the club and is ready to seek pastures new with his contract up in June. "I face a difficult decision in the new year and it will be decided by football matters, not financial," he said. "I am 26 now and I have to start playing first-team football on a regular basis. If it is clear that isn't going to happen I may have little option but to move on."

Motherwell, meanwhile, despite a radical improvement under Billy Davies, are still searching for a first away victory this season - a problem also facing Dunfermline in the other Premier League game tonight.

The Pars are in danger of becoming marooned at the bottom and desperately need to pick up points from their visit to St Johnstone and Saturday's home game with Hearts before the three-week winter shutdown. But they will face a Saints side whose progress this term can be measured by the response of their manager, Sandy Clark, to defeat at Ibrox on Saturday.

"It was frustrating and disappointing not to get anything from the Rangers game and I regarded it as three points dropped after the way things went," he said. "We didn't get any breaks, but I still feel we should have done more to earn them. We have to be confident enough to press home our advantage when we are on top."

Wright and Hartson resume service

THE SENSE in Harry Redknapp's contention that it probably would not take much more than a couple of favourable bounces to get his strike force going again was borne out by the manner of Ian Wright's first goal since the last day of October.

BY KEN JONES
West Ham United 2
Coventry City 0

of course, shared by West Ham's manager, who had further cause for satisfaction when Hartson snapped up Wright's cross to secure victory in the 67th minute with his first goal for more than a month.

"When strikers aren't scoring they are bound to lose confidence," Redknapp said. "That can spread throughout the team, so it's good to see Ian and John back in business."

The remarkable thing, proof of West Ham's burgeoning stability, is that they are more or less established in the top

seven places of the Premiership despite the difficulties Hartson and Wright have experienced.

Conspicuous by their ineffectiveness against Arsenal on Boxing Day, when there was the spur of doing well against their old club, they looked a lot more like themselves again.

Despite being opened up rather too easily along their left flank for anyone with affiliation, Coventry managed to work hard enough at disputing possession in midfield to force West Ham wider than normally suits them. Nevertheless, Wright especially went about his work with such renewed vigour that Frank Lampard should have done better with a pass that set up a wasted opportunity.

Coventry were put out when Stephen Faggatt's surge from the left was brought to an abrupt end in the penalty area without any response from the referee, Paul Durkin, who had the unusual experience of completing the match without producing one yellow card.

Coventry caused West Ham one or two anxious moments, particularly when a swinging cross from Roland Nilsson was only just reached by Ian Pearce with Noel Whelan threatening. Another Coventry attack forced Shahe Hisslop to punch clear but West Ham's response was immediate, Steve Lomas breaking way to find Wright, who came close to scoring after lifting the ball over Ogrizovic.

The liveliness Coventry showed at the start of the second half may well have been an response to some unseasonal utterances in their dressing-room. Before Hartson, more or less, put the game beyond Coventry's reach, Whelan should have equalised when left free at a corner kick. But by then Coventry had lost too much of their earlier conviction.

Goal: Wright (7) 1-0; Hartson (68) 2-0. West Ham United (3-5-2): Holoop; Pearce, Ferdinand, Dicks; Sinclair, Lomas; Berikovic (Potts, 80), Lampard, Lazaridis; Hartson, Wright (Ongwenyi, 53). Substitutes not used: Brackley, Hodges, Forrest (gk). Coventry City (4-4-2): Ogrizovic; Nilsson, Shaw, Green, Edwards (Helfet, 70); Boling, Silvestri, McAlister, Faggatt; Abdul (Ruckhby, 57), Whelan. Substitutes not used: Williams, Spillion, Hedman (gk). Referee: P Durkin (Derby). Man of the match: Wright. Attendance: 25,662.

TOMORROW

COUNTDOWN TO
THE FA CUP
THIRD ROUND

Bottom
two show
appetite
for fight

Goater's muscle lifts City

THE MOON is blue and they are singing of promotion, of a glorious new year down at Maine Road. Manchester City's slide seemed to have gathered an unstoppable momentum through these past months and seasons, but a 30,000 crowd dared to acclaim a change of fortune yesterday.

Their side recovered from familiar lapses, frustrations and a goal deficit to overwhelm Stoke City in the second half and deservedly take the points from a rousing encounter.

Long abused, tormented and even humiliated, Joe Royle's club have lifted themselves in the contest for a return to the First Division, the passion and commitment of those on and off the pitch compensating for obvious flaws in the playing ranks.

Royle had the courage to throw on an extra striker, Shaun Goater, after the interval and the extra muscle pummeled Stoke into submission.

Stoke had gone ahead through Larus Sigurdsson, and with Graham Kavanagh and Kevin Keen controlling proceedings in midfield they appeared to have checked their recent tumble from the summit. But Michael Brown was to play a still more significant role, while the sheer weight of the home side's

BY DERICK ALLSOP

Manchester City	2
Stoke City	1

attacks forced down Stoke's barricades.

The irrepressible Paul Dickov equalised early in the second half and six minutes from the end Gareth Taylor headed the winner.

Stoke had responded to City's early vigour with like, making more cunning use of the flanks and providing able support to the front man. The arrival of reinforcements ought to have brought them the lead after eight minutes, when Phil Robinson, unchallenged right of the goal, volleyed meekly at goalkeeper Nicky Weaver.

Three minutes later the ball was in Stoke's net only for a linesman's flag to frustrate Royle's players. Dickov's clever turn and cross created the danger and Taylor led the aerial assault to turn the ball past Carl Muggleton.

Dickov instigated City's next threat, his dummy clearing the way for Brown to dart towards the goal-line. His pull-back was cleared by Robinson, atoning for his miss.

That scare shook Stoke out of a period of lethargy and the probing of Kavanagh and Keen



Stoke City's Peter Thorne holds off Manchester City's Toby Vaughan at Maine Road yesterday

set up their goal after 31 minutes. Kavanagh was twice involved in the build-up and Keen delivered the chip for Sigurdsson to head beyond Weaver's right hand.

City found an unlikely source of desperately needed inspiration in Richard Edgill, who defied the derision of the gallery to play a splendid pass into the path of Dickov. The striker was uncharacteristically hesitant and his route to goal was blocked by Robinson.

Royle endeavored to sharpen his side for the second half, introducing Goater in place of the ineffectual Ian Bishop. The gamble yielded an instant dividend. The physical presence of Goater and Taylor made the most of indecision in Stoke's defence and enabled Dickov to dispatch a simple 48th-minute equaliser with Muggleton stranded.

City were reborn, the faith of their followers restored. Maine Road reverberated to the frenzy

Sunderland scrape past Gradi test

NORMAL SERVICE was only partially resumed at the jam-packed Stadium of Light yesterday. With a crowd of 41,433 in attendance, a record for the Wearside ground, Sunderland got back on to the winning track and Crewe continued to suffer from points failure.

Beaten at Tranmere on Boxing Day, Sunderland pulled eight points clear of Ipswich at the top of the First Division table thanks to goals in either half by Danny Dichio and Michael Bridges. In doing so they took their haul of League points in 1998 to 103, one more than Swindon's record for a season, but it was a far from momentous performance by the would-be graduates to the Premiership.

Wingless for the fifth match in succession, with Allan Johnston and Nicky Summerbee still on the injured list, Sunderland were static and statusless throughout a contest controlled, for the most part, by an assured Crewe team who belied their bottom-of-the-table status. Seth Johnson dictated in midfield and Rodney Jack posed persistent problems up front with his pace. Ultimately, though, it was another pointless afternoon for Dario Gradi's side.

They fell behind against the run of play on the quarter-hour. Alex Rae prompted an intricate passing move which culminated in Dichio back-healing to Niall Quinn on the edge of the Crewe penalty area, then

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Sunderland	2
Crewe Alexandra	0

collecting the return pass and firing a low right-foot shot past the diving Jasoo Kearn.

To Crewe's credit, they made their hosts sweat, passing and probing with a precision far beyond their lowly station. Jack squandered two clear chances and only the alertness of Thomas Sorensen denied the industrious Mark Rivers what would have been a deserved equaliser before the break. The home goal was fortunate survive intact after the break, too, the woodwork sparing Martin Scott the embarrassment of a headed own goal and Sorensen diving full length to keep out a rasping Jack drive.

It took the introduction of Bridges to settle Sunderland's nerves, the young striker holding off two markers to drive home the second goal with 12 minutes left. "He's a good player," Gradi mused afterwards. "I asked Peter Reid if I could buy him last month. I won't tell you what his reply was."

Danny Dichio (15) 1-0; Bridges (78) 2-0; Sunderland (4-4-2): Sorensen, Main, Butler, Melville, Scott, Rae, Williams, H-j, Clark, Ball, Gray (McGinn, h-j); Dichio, Quinn (Bridges, 60); Crewe Alexandra (4-4-2): Kearn, Biggott, Unsworth, Foran, Smith, Wright (Lipson, 85); Johnson, Sorensen, Hunt, 83; Rivers, Jack, Little (Brier, 83). Referee: A Wiley (Birmingham). Bookings: Sunderland Ball, Main. Man of the match: Johnson. Attendance: 41,433.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP																							
Home											Away												
5-game form											5-game form												
	PI	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
																			Most recent on right	Upcoming matches			
1	Aston Villa	20	39	+11	7	2	1	19	12	4	4	2	12	8	WWLWL	18 Jan Middlesbrough (H); 19 Jan Everton (H); 30 Jan Newcastle (A); 5 Feb Blackburn (H); 6 Feb Arsenal (A)							
2	Chelsea	19	36	+14	6	3	0	15	5	3	6	1	16	12	WDDWW	Today Man Utd (H); 9 Jan Newcastle (H); 16 Jan Coventry (H); 31 Jan Arsenal (A)							
3	Arsenal	20	35	+11	6	4	0	15	4	3	4	3	7	7	DLWWW	9 Jan Liverpool (H); 31 Jan Chelsea (H); 5 Feb West Ham (H); 13 Feb Man Utd (H)							
4	Man Utd	19	34	+16	7	3	1	27	12	2	4	2	12	11	DDDLW	Today Queens (A); 10 Jan West Ham (H); 16 Jan Leicester (A); 30 Jan Charlton (H)							
5	Leeds	19	32	+15	6	2	1	16	8	2	6	2	16	14	WWLWL	10 Jan Middlesbrough (H); 30 Jan Southampton (H); 16 Jan Man Utd (H); 16 Jan Sheffield Wed (H); 30 Jan Wimbledon (A); 6 Feb Arsenal (H)							
6	West Ham	20	32	+1	6	3	1	16	10	3	2	5	8	13	LLWLW	9 Jan Arsenal (H); 16 Jan Southampton (H); 30 Jan Coventry (H); 6 Feb Arsenal (H)							
7	Liverpool	20	31	+11	5	3	2	21	12	4	1	5	15	13	LLWWW	9 Jan Arsenal (H); 16 Jan Leeds (A); 30 Jan Leicester (H); 6 Feb Liverpool (A)							
8	Middlesbrough	20	30	+6	4	5	1	16	10	3	4	3	16	16	DWLLL	9 Jan Aston Villa (H); 16 Jan Leeds (A); 30 Jan Leicester (H); 6 Feb Liverpool (A)							
9	Wimbledon	19	29	+5	6	3	1	16	10	2	2	5	9	20	WLWWW	Today Leeds (A); 9 Jan Derby (H); 16 Jan Tottenham (H); 30 Jan West Ham (H)							
10	Derby	20	28	+2	3	5	2	10	9	3	5	2	10	9	DDDDW	9 Jan Wimbledon (A); 16 Jan Blackburn (H); 30 Jan Sheffield Wed (H); 6 Feb Everton (H)							
11	Leicester	19	27	+2	5	2	2	14	9	2	4	4	8	11	DWWLW	9 Jan Everton (H); 16 Jan Man Utd (H); 30 Jan Middlesbrough (H); 6 Feb Sheffield Wed (H)							
12	Tottenham	20	27	-2	5	3	2	19	16	2	3	5	9	14	WDLDW	9 Jan Sheffield Wed (A); 16 Jan Wimbledon (H); 6 Feb Coventry (H); 13 Feb Southampton (H)							
13	Newcastle	20	24	-4	5	2	3	14	13	1	4	5	10	15	DDWLL	9 Jan Chelsea (H); 17 Jan Charlton (A); 30 Jan Aston Villa (H); 6 Feb Leeds (A)							
14	Everton	20	23	-8	2	6	2	3	5	3	2	5	10	16	DWLDL	9 Jan Leicester (H); 18 Jan Aston Villa (A); 30 Jan Moun Fares (H); 7 Feb Derby (A)							
15	Sheff Wed	20	22	-1	5	2	3	13	6	1	2	7	8	16	WWLLL	9 Jan Tottenham (H); 16 Jan West Ham (A); 30 Jan Tottenham (H); 6 Feb Leicester (A)							
16	Blackburn	19	17	-8	4	2	4	12	11	0	3	6	7	16	LWDDW	9 Jan Leeds (H); 18 Jan Derby (A); 30 Jan Tottenham (H); 6 Feb Aston Villa (H)							
17	Coventry	20	17	-13	3	4	3	11	12	1	1	8	5	17	LLDDL	9 Jan Moun Fares (H); 16 Jan Chelsea (A); 30 Jan Liverpool (H); 6 Feb Tottenham (A)							
18	Charlton	20	16	-8	2	3	4	13	10	1	4	6	10	21	LLLLL	9 Jan Southampton (H); 17 Jan Newcastle (H); 30 Jan Man Utd (H); 8 Feb Wimbledon (H)							
19	Southampton	20	14	-22	2	2	6	12	20	1	3	6	4	18	LLWLD	9 Jan Charlton (H); 16 Jan Liverpool (H); 30 Jan Leeds (H); 6 Feb Chelsea (A)							
20	Nottm Forest	20	13	-18	1	6	3	9	12	1	1	8	9	24	LLDLD	9 Jan Coventry (A); 16 Jan Arsenal (H); 30 Jan Everton (A); 6 Feb Man Utd (H)							

SPORT

PLUMMER IS EVERYONE'S MATE P15 • FENTON'S A MUDDY MARVEL P16

Premiership football: Relief for Gregory as his contenders resume leadership ahead of tonight's title confrontation

Ehiogu late show raises Villa billing

ASTON VILLA returned to the top of the Premiership, though perhaps only until Chelsea meet Manchester United tonight, when a late goal by Ugo Ehiogu broke the resistance of a Sheffield Wednesday side who played for 70 minutes with 10 men following the dismissal of Dejan Stefanovic.

Wednesday, who have specialised in frustrating championship contenders, were within five minutes of adding a point at Villa Park to the one they took from Stamford Bridge and home wins over United and Arsenal when Ehiogu's header rewarded mounting pressure by John Gregory's team.

It was quite an afternoon for central defenders. Apart from Stefanovic's exit for a second bookable offence and Des Walker's first caution for two and a half years, Gareth Southgate fired Villa in front with his first goal in a similar period. Benito Carbone equalised immediately, but Wednesday's vulnerability at set-pieces ultimately ensured a scoreline which reflected the balance of play.

Gregory, while conceding that Villa were not at their best, praised their ability to "grind out" results. The Villa manager felt that Stefanovic's punishment had been "very harsh", a view expressed more forcibly by Danny Wilson. "The first yellow card was diabolical," the Wednesday manager said. "The referee will be embarrassed when he sees it again."

Considering they had finished a draining match at Blackburn - playing a man short for 35 minutes - the vigour with which Villa stuck at their task spoke volumes for their fitness and commitment. In their pre-Christmas fixture, at Charlton, Villa's goal arrived after three minutes. This time, only seven minutes had passed

BY PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa 2
Sheffield Wednesday 1

before Stefanovic was judged to have fouled Julian Joachim and was cautioned. Lee Hendrie's free-kick found Pavel Srnicek punching weakly under pressure, allowing Southgate to volley home from 12 yards.

The Villa captain had not scored since striking the winner against Blackburn on the night of Kenny Dalglish's departure in August 1996. Yet if Southgate hoped an early goal might suffice once more, a combination of Villa's slapdash defending and Carbone's virtuosity swiftly disabused them of such notions.

PREMIERSHIP TOP SIX

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Aston Villa	20	11	6	3	31	29
Chelsea	19	9	9	1	31	17
Arsenal	20	9	8	3	22	11
Man Utd	19	9	7	3	39	23
Leeds	19	8	8	3	32	27
West Ham	20	9	9	6	24	22

The Italian, suspended when Wednesday lost to Leicester on Boxing Day, initially set up a shooting chance for Andy Booth but Gareth Barry dispossessed him at the expense of a corner. When Andy Hinchcliffe's flag-kick was cleared back to him, he crossed again for Booth to outjump Dublin and give Carbone the opportunity to demonstrate the art of the overhead kick.

Villa were pressing forward in numbers when Stefanovic, perhaps caught out by Joachim's acceleration, again sent him tumbling. The Villa striker tried to stay on his feet, but like the Yugoslav, he did not have a leg to stand on.

Wednesday's strategy was already one of counter-attack. Switching to four at the back

and boldly leaving two up front, they twice scared Villa before the interval. First, Petter Rudi's cross was volleyed narrowly wide by Niclas Alexandersson; then Carbone chipped over Michael Oakes only to see the ball land on the roof of the net.

Villa's exasperation intensified when Dublin, meeting Alan Wright's cross five yards out, saw his first shot thud into Hinchcliffe and his follow-up blocked by Srnicek in first-half stoppage time.

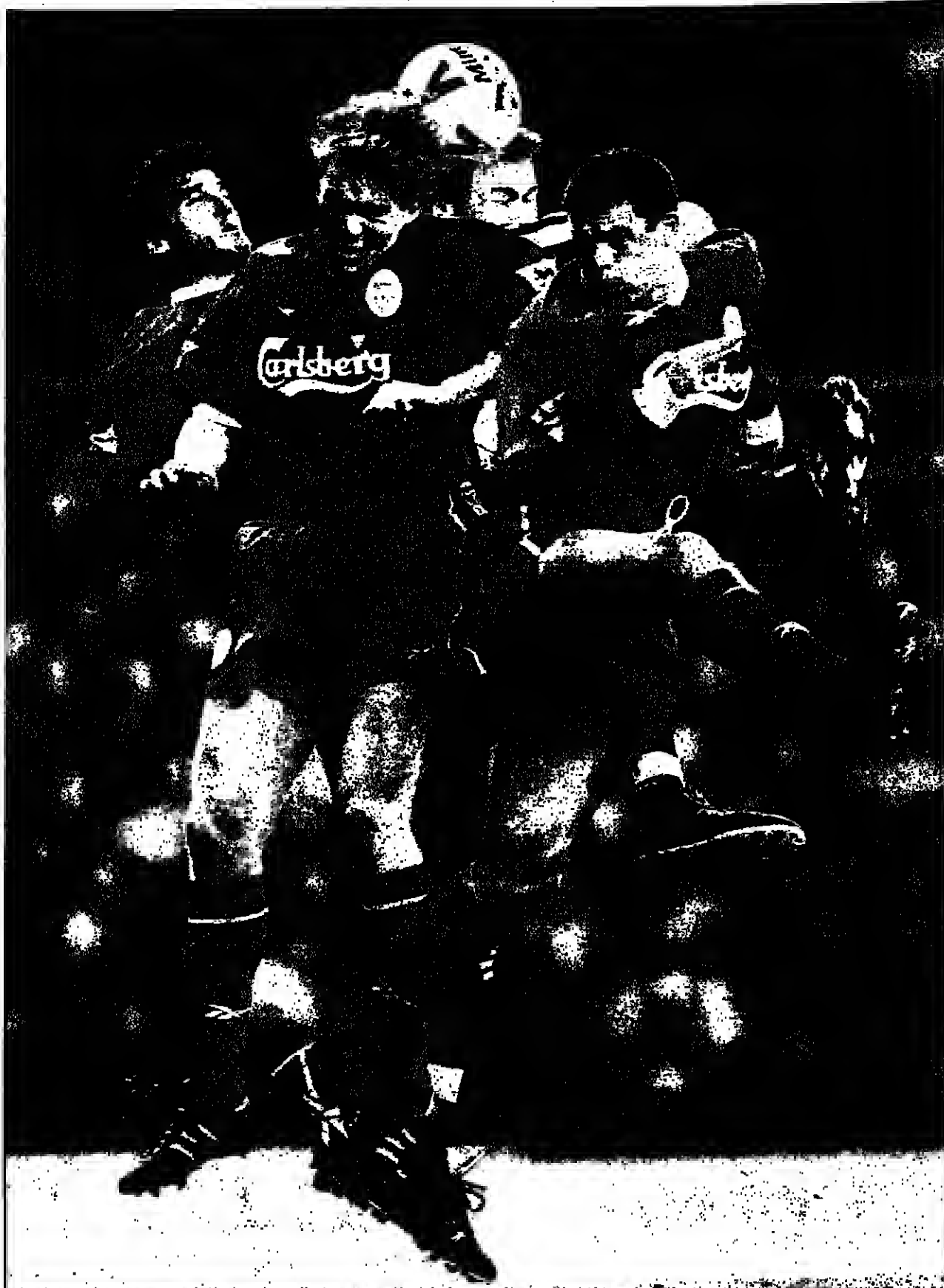
Eight minutes in the second half Gregory sent on Stan Collymore and Mark Draper, a ploy that had transformed Villa's previous home game, against Arsenal, but Wednesday kept possession and covered assiduously to deny them space.

On the hour, Ehiogu's towering header from a corner was wrongly disallowed by Mr Barber, and with 16 minutes left, Hinchcliffe received the benefit of substantial doubt when he appeared to take Joachim's legs in the penalty area.

In the 82nd minute, moments after Steve Watson had headed wide, Joachim's eventual day continued when his 20-yard drive rebounded off the far post. Gregory admitted later he was resigned to drawing the game at that stage. However, when Ehiogu met Wright's corner with a header that was a carbon copy of his earlier effort, Wednesday had exhausted their supply of good fortune.

Goalkeepers: Southgate (7) 1-4; Carbone (6) 1-1; Ehiogu (8) 2-1.
Aston Villa (2-5-2): Oakes; Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry, Watson, Taylor (Dwyer 53); Hendrie, Scimeca (Collymore 53); Wright, Joachim, Dublin, Sebastian (not used).
Sheffield Wednesday (2-3-2): Srnicek; Thomas, Walker, Stefanovic; Alexandersson (Briscoe 69); York, Asherson, Rudi (Munphy 69); Hinchcliffe, Booth, Carbone. Substitutes not used: Magilton, Sorace, Pressman (69).
Referee: G Barber (Plymouth).
Send-off: Sheffield Wednesday: Stefanovic. Bookings: Sheffield Wednesday: West, Scimeca, Rudi, Walker, Hinchcliffe.
Man of the match: Hendrie.
Attendance: 25,217.

Football, pages 17-19



Newcastle striker Duncan Ferguson's aerial threat is apparent as three Liverpool players, Karlheinz Riedle (left), Steve Staunton and Jamie Carragher, battle to keep him under wraps at Anfield yesterday. *ALISPORT*

Owen ruins Gullit's day

BY GUY HODGSON

Liverpool 4
Newcastle United 2

was a long time in coming, because Anders Andersson was able to add to Nolberto Solano's opener early in the second half before Newcastle were swept aside. Needless to say Michael Owen made up a substantial part of the tidal wave.

"Even when we were 2-0 down we showed the character to keep passing and coming forward," Gerard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said. "The great thing is it's the first time in a long time since we won three matches in a row."

You do not need a fine grasp of football tactics to know that Liverpool's defence flaps whenever the ball is in the air and it required only 20 seconds for the weakness to be laid bare. Alan Shearer flicked on and Duncan Ferguson's low shot to the far post would have scored but for David James' long arm turning it round the post.

Defining a problem is only half-way to solving it, however, and as Ferguson ruled the roost it was only a matter of time before Newcastle would profit. That time was 28 minutes

when the giant centre-forward headed down Stephen Glass's free-kick and Solano charged in to thrash the ball past James.

Newcastle, who were turned over 4-3 in successive seasons here recently, exulted, but the celebrations were cut short almost immediately. Hamann had already been cautioned for a lunge at Steve McManaman that will sideline the England winger for at least two weeks with an ankle injury and when he tripped Patrick Berger he was sent off.

The visitors were furious that Hamann should be booked again for a foul that appeared no more serious than the one Jamie Redknapp had inflicted on Gary Speed in the build-up to the goal and Shearer was also booked in the protests.

If Newcastle were upset it was nothing compared to the home crowd who watched in disbelief as 10-man Newcastle went further ahead after 55 minutes. Phil Babb and Jamie Carragher went for the same ball, became entangled and then allowed Andersson the freedom to swerve round James. Babb almost got back to rescue things, but the shot bounced off his heel and into the net. Houllier found extra attack-

ing verve in Vegard Heggem. The Norwegian was freed from his defensive responsibilities by the introduction of Jason McAteer and ripped Newcastle apart on the right flank. Even so it seemed Liverpool would be denied as Shay Given produced save after save and it required the lightning reflexes of Owen to launch their comeback.

With Anfield seething with excitement it would probably have been unstoppable anyway and the last thing it needed was any favours. But that was what it got when the referee ignored what appeared to be a handball by Karlheinz Riedle on his way to crashing the ball into the Newcastle net.

That was the pin that deflated the visitors' resistance. Owen got his second after 80 minutes and Riedle matched him four minutes later. Liverpool (3-5-2): James; Carragher, Staunton, Babb (McMan 58), Heggem, McManaman (Gerrard 24); Thompson, H-1, Redknapp, Berger, Blomqvist, Owen, Riedle. Substitutes not used: Friedel (69), Hartness.
Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given; Charnet, Hughes, Howey, Pearce; Solano (Dabiziz 74), Hamann, Speed, Glass (Georgiadis 66); Ferguson (Andersson 49), Shearer. Substitutes not used: Barnes, Harper (84).
Referee: S Lodge (Barnsley). Bookings: Newcastle Shearer. Send-off: Newcastle Hamann.
Man of the match: Owen.
Attendance: 44,605.

Desailly ready to raise the Blues flag

BY MARK PIERSON

WITH CHELSEA'S title credentials set to undergo their second examination by Manchester United within the space of a fortnight tonight, the stage is set for the return of Marcel Desailly.

The Frenchman has not played since the injury-time victory against Aston Villa on 9 December, missing four games in the meantime with a knee injury including the 1-1 draw at Old Trafford. But, with Dennis Wise suspended and Gustavo Poyet out injured for at least a couple of weeks, the timing of Desailly's expected return could hardly have been better.

A colossus at the back alongside compatriot Frank Leboeuf, the French international signed from Milan over the summer has also played several times this season in a holding role in midfield. While Jody Morris has performed with distinction over recent weeks, the Chelsea player-manager, Gianluca Viali, may prefer Desailly's experience and stature against United, especially given the form of Michael Duberry in defence.

Indeed, it is a measure of the strength of Chelsea's squad that just when they look to have problems in central midfield, they can look to call upon the services of a World Cup winner to step in. Desailly has been close to starting Chelsea's last two games before pulling out late on, so his involvement is not certain. However, the feeling persists that Viali may have been saving him for tonight when he named his side to face Southampton on Boxing Day.

Roberto Di Matteo may also be back to partner Desailly in central midfield after missing the trip to The Dell through suspension, while the hand injury which required a minor operation should have cleared up sufficiently. Chelsea will wait until later this week for further tests on the knee injury which Poyet suffered at Southampton before giving an update on his condition, despite reports already ruling him out for six weeks.

United's doubts surround £24m worth of talent forced to miss Saturday's 3-0 win over Nottingham Forest, with Dwight Yorke, Jaap Stam and Andy Cole all having treatment. "We will have to see how they are before making any decisions," said the United manager, Alex Ferguson, who admits he is looking forward to the big game.

"We have a very good record at Chelsea," he said. "It's a one of our favourite grounds just as it is for Chelsea when they come to Old Trafford. It's a strange situation. I will be a smashing match and I think it has some significance for the title race in that whoever wins will be doing handstands."

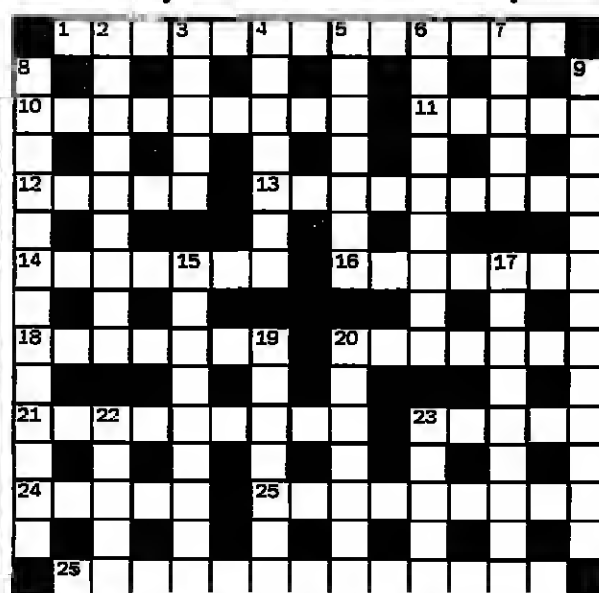
Gary Neville is available after missing Saturday's win through suspension but will be out again on Sunday after collecting five bookings. He misses the FA Cup tie with Middlesbrough but could be back tonight at the expense of his brother Phil, who was right back against Forest. Ronny Johnsen, who scored twice on Saturday, could lose his place if Stam and Neville return but Ferguson may decide to leave Johnsen in the side alongside the Dutchman.

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3805 Tuesday 29 December

by Aired

Monday's Solution



1 Across
2 Down
3 Across
4 Down
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8 Down
9 Across
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12 Down
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25 Across

- 1 Old seat of power? (7,8)
10 Travelling off to another do (2,3,4)
11 Searches for doctor in Greek island (5)
12 Sign of pound being engulfed by changes in liquidity? (5)
13 Greets character showing precipitation (9)
14 Power kitchen implement in US takes current and is more expensive (7)
16 He is entertained in talk by them? (7)
18 Trick then has to be made correct (7)
20 Cattle enthusiast getting a look (7)
21 One forms column in forbidden city to right

- 23 Feature of French in piece of plumbing? (5)
24 It prevents return of Virginia's loveless romance (5)
25 Damaged tendon round edge is improving (2,3,4)
26 Power, it tests Roman? Could be (13)
2 Little child puts everything into good bit of arithmetic (9)
3 Daisy, a bovine, should be able to see with it? (2,3)
4 One not the woman in question? (7)
5 Editor's demise is causing some cross-currents (7)

- 6 Measure sign of disapprobation of hypocrite (9)
7 Artist and doctor meeting old brutal person (5)
8 Job of work after coming from the theatre? (4,9)
9 Rising water level which could get rid of religious celebration (13)
15 Producer of chips gets lecture from wit (9)
17 Indian's topping explosive speech (9)
19 Such oxide could give you a gas and a laugh? (7)
20 Battier sort of old clerical wear? (7)
22 Farm machinery which could get rid of water, we hear (5)
23 Sound of complaint from formidable attorney (5)

Bribes bring call to scrap 'tainted' event

OLYMPIC GAMES

AUSTRALIA'S FORMER sports minister has called on the International Olympic Committee to scrap the Olympic Games after 2004 - because their credibility has been so badly damaged by the latest bribes scandal.

Andrew Thomson, the son of the five-times Open golf champion Peter Thomson, said the time had come for the Olympic Games to be replaced by another global sporting event organised by a different group of

people. "If you're going to organise sport on a global level I would have thought the first requirement would be that it be ethically clean and that there be no suggestion of any financial taint to it at all," Thomson said in Sydney yesterday.

"But I don't think that with these people [IOC members] appointed for life, silly as that obviously is, that they can redeem themselves."

"Why can't we organise a global competition in some other form where the franchises are not handed out by this extraordinary, bizarre group of men."

"What better than to say Athens, Olympic history and all that, why not make 2004 the last?"

The IOC was embarrassed earlier this month when the executive board member Marc Hodler said that some IOC members had taken money or

favours from hiding cities in return for votes to secure the right to host Olympic festivals.

Thomson, who was replaced by Jackie Kelly as the Australian sports minister after a general election in October, said he believed Sydney's bid for the 2000 Games had been above board.

Sydney was chosen in 1993 as 2000 hosts after a bitter struggle with Peking.

"From what I've heard from others, Sydney's bid was clean

- that was the great miracle of it," Thomson said.

"Having the Games in Sydney despite some of the fuss surrounding SOCOG [the Sydney organising committee] is the only way the Olympic movement could possibly maintain even the slightest cleanliness about it."

"I think that if the Games had gone to Peking, given the drug problems in China, that would have killed it off very quickly."

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Blood wedding



Khanwar Ahsan, a clerk from Karachi, and his true love, Riffat Afridi, a young woman from the rugged mountains of the North-West Frontier, have done a very modern thing. They have fallen in love; they have run away; they have married in secret, and in defiance of their families they have set up home together. And now there is a good chance that one or both of them will pay for all this modernity with their lives.

This love story has mesmerised Pakistan over the past year: a bitter tale of star-crossed lovers and of fierce communal hatred and violence to rival anything that Verona could produce. It is, in short, an aptly harsh tale to sprout from the urban wastes of Karachi: a city at once the most prosperous and the most violent, the most stylish and the most barbaric in Pakistan.

Their's was a match made in this city, sometimes described as a melting pot, but which more often seems like a time bomb. To the outsider's casual gaze, there appeared nothing wrong with their relationship. Both partners were products of communities sucked into the city by economic need and opportunity. They were both Muslims, both Pakistanis, both citizens of the province of Sind. But their communities are deeply antagonistic. In Shakespeare's play, the deaths of Romeo and Juliet bring their warring families together in the final scene. Only the most optimistic could imagine that the deaths of Khanwar and Rifat might produce such a result for the Mohajirs and the Pathans.

For the past nine months, ever since the assault with automatic weapons that has left Khanwar with a permanent limp, they have been in hiding. According to Khanwar's elder brother they are in the care of Khanwar's friends and distant relatives, moving frequently from one hiding place to another.

A fortnight ago they emerged from hiding long enough to make it known that they were seeking asylum abroad. But the latest news is that their applications for asylum have failed. Of EU countries, only the Netherlands held out some hope. "But they suggested we hire a lawyer over there to pursue the case," said Khanwar's brother. "That, however, is more than we can afford." Meanwhile, he claimed, professional killers hired by Riffat Afridi's family are still hunting for the couple.

Khanwar Ansan, aged 50, had worked for several years as a clerk in Karachi, close to the Afridi's family home. He was the chief of Mohajirs, Muslim refugees (*mohajir* means simply refugee) who streamed into Karachi at the time of Pakistan's partition from modern India in 1947 when the sub-continent gained independence from Britain. More than half the current population of Karachi consists of Mohajirs, but they retain lingering, deep-seated grievances against both the native Sindis who were the old feudal power on this coast the influential Bhutto family - Zulfikar and his daughter Benazir have been president and prime minister respectively - prominent among them), and the Punjabis who dominate the central government.

As outsiders and newcomers, the Mohajirs feel persistently cheated and downgraded; excluded from the higher ranks of government, the judiciary, the police. Stoking the fires of grievance, their main political party, Mohajir Qoumi Movement (MQM), has adopted tactics of hyper-violence.

lence against its opponents, turning Karachi into the bloodiest city in south Asia. Last month it became so bad that the current prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, placed the city under martial law.

If there was fanaticism and fury among Khanwar's community, his lover's had it in equal measure. Riffat Afridi was the 19-year-old daughter – the 'favourite daughter' according to one report – of a Pathan tribal chief. The Pathans or Pashtuns are the tribesmen of the North-West Frontier: tall, rangy, valiant, and unmistakable with their piled-up turbans, hawk profiles and insouciant mountain man machismo.

Their community straddles the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, and, while the majority now live in Pakistan, in sparsely populated Afghanistan they number more than half the population.

During the colonial period, the British found them persistently unruly: there were numerous fierce rebellions. "Wide-

spread lawlessness and defiance of British authority," writes historian Robert G. Wirsing, "were the constant complaint of British officialdom at virtually all times."

The best the British Empire could manage was to contain them through political

BY JASON BURKE

The matching of a middle-class Mohajir with the "favourite daughter" of a tribal chief from the mountains was never going to please either set of in-laws. That they

got together at all was a testimony to the melting-pot qualities of Karachi. But the reaction of Riffat's family exemplifies more the city's explosive potential. The Pathans have very strong ideas about what is and what is not right in love and mar-

& PETER POPHAM

riage. Their heightened sense of honour, *nang*, means that if a woman of the tribe receives so much as a lingering glance from a stranger, tribal honour is besmirched, and *badal*, or revenge, must be sought. This can mean death to the offender.

But if a woman of the tribe enters willingly into a liaison with a stranger, it is not her honour but that of the family which must be restored, and that requires both lovers be killed. This is the nightmare in which Khanwar and Riffat now live. Details

of the first meetings and the doubtless furtive courtship of the couple are hard to come by. Apparently they first met four years ago, by chance, because of the proximity of Khawan's office and Riffat's home. In snatched meetings after that, their relationship deepened. Then in September of last year, they took their fateful decision. In secret they married, then eloped to Rawalpindi, a large city in the north, suitably distant from both their clans.

When the news of the marriage reached him, Riffa's father erupted in fury. But he hatched a plan and laid a charge of kidnapping against his unwelcome new son-in-law. Riffa, he insisted, was already married to a 19-year-old from the same tribe called Niazhat Khan. Khan backed the story up. "We were married seven months ago," he claimed. "I will accept her as my wife if she is returned to me. She is already married according to our customs, and cannot be given to anyone else."

The police took this convenient tale perhaps more seriously than it merited. Khanwar was duly arrested in Rawalpindi, and taken to Karachi to stand trial for kidnapping. There matters might have rested until the case was heard but at this point a tribal dimension entered the affair.

Riffat's father convened a *jirga*, a tribal council, to deliberate on the matter, and the elders solemnly declared that Khamwar and his Mohajir protectors must die. Pathan law, which prevails in their own tribal area, should also apply in this case, the *jirga* maintained - even though the urban wastes of Karachi are hundreds of miles from their mountain homeland.

Now passions were ignited - political grievance, communal xenophobia and traditional urges for revenge make an explosive mix. On 11 February riots broke out in Karachi, and continued for three days: two passers-by were killed, and many people injured, including several policemen. The couple remained defiant.

From his prison cell at the time, Khanwar told reporters: "We loved each other and they would not allow us to marry, so we did it anyway. I will not leave her, come what may."

He did not have to wait long for what was coming. As he entered the Karachi court building on 4 March, relatives of Riffat opened fire with AK47 automatic rifles, hitting him three times, damaging his spine and leaving him partially paralysed. Three policemen were also injured in the affray, and seven members of Riffat's family were arrested.

Why has the story of Khanwar and Rifat so captivated Pakistan? Is it not only the frightening exoticism of the Pathans trying to impose tribal law in suburban Karachi. Nor is it merely the gruesome communal mismatch of the unlucky couple. Rather it is a story that touches a particularly tender nerve. It throws into relief the centrifugal forces that threaten to rip Pakistan apart: refugee "outsiders", on the one hand, using everything in their power to achieve the status they believe is their right; proud and stubborn tribals on the other, clinging to their traditional codes, even trying to extend them.

These are the sorts of forces that give this young, fragile, artificial nation such a tenuous sense of its identity, and such a tenacious fear of what the future may hold.

Karachi remains a tinder-box of communal tensions. Anything – a road accident, a love affair, an assertion of will by the usually eunuch-like city government – can set it off. This simmering city is constantly on the verge of boiling over.

Yet for all its troubles, which include collapsing infrastructure, severe atmospheric pollution and crazy, cancer-like growth, in many ways Karachi works. It works for the rich, for whom it is Pakistan's centre of urban sophistication. It works for women, vast numbers of whom obtain good educations; get responsible and well-paid jobs, and conduct themselves almost as freely as Europeans. It even works for many of the poor, whom it attracts in huge numbers and whose shanties sprawl across the baked desert sand. "It is a *gharib nazim city*," a bus conductor put it recently to a local journalist - "a city which provides for the poor." Food is cheap, for example; accommodation cheaper.

Such a city should breed and inculcate civic values; just as it enables couples of different, warring communities to meet and fall in love. It should also create the conditions where they can settle down and live in peace. But for Karachi at present that is one measure of civilisation too far.

Boy meets girl. They fall in
love and marry. It's an everyday
story – except that the couple
have ignited a tinderbox of
communal tensions and now
her father wants them killed

BY JASON BURKE & PETER POPHAM

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Kosovo's tragedy

Sir: Considering that every nation of the ever-turbulent Balkans has significant minority populations who desire unification with their "mother" countries, Rupert Cornwell's support for "mono-ethnic states" ("Can anyone keep peace between the Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo?", 28 December) in the Balkans is ludicrous and would set a dangerous precedent the world over that terrorism can indeed change the borders and ethnic compositions of nations.

A Western military presence in Kosovo will be a *de facto* occupation of Yugoslavia (reminiscent of the Nazi German occupation during the Second World War) if it is not condoned by the Yugoslav government and will have to be open-ended because injustice is not easily forgotten in this part of the world.

By preventing the Yugoslav government from combating the terrorist actions of the KLA, the West will in fact be supporting the continued persecution and ethnic cleansing of Kosovo's non-Albanian population which includes not only Serbs, but also Gypsies, Serbian Muslims, and other ethnic groups who number over 400,000 (according to some estimates) and are generally counted as "Albanian" but who in fact are mainly loyal to Yugoslavia.

Western-imposed solutions will not offer any long-term remedy to the Yugoslav tragedy. The devastating sanctions which cripple all Yugoslavs (Serbian and Albanian alike) must be lifted to boost the economy so that Serbian and Albanian leaders will no longer have a scapegoat to rouse their respective peoples against one another.

Only then can we hope that at least some of the irresponsible leaders who destroyed the former Yugoslavia will be replaced.

Dr MICHAEL PRAYAGA
New York

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Panto Season No 2: Ben Crocker (in silhouette), the artistic director of Exeter's Northcott Theatre, oversees a rehearsal of 'Dick Whittington' John Voos

The sky at night

Sir: Roger Highfield ascribes discovery of the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Pisces in 7BC to David Hughes of Sheffield University: it was in fact discovered by Kepler in 1603 ("Our ancient fascination with the sky at night", 19 December). Modern archaeology confirms that the conjunction was observed at the School of Astrology at Sippar in Mesopotamia.

Most of the Christmas carols we sing are good poetry and most are consistent with the Biblical record. Not surprisingly, most are also astronomically challenged. An exception is *O Little Town of Bethlehem* which contains the lines: "O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth."

Phillips Brooks wrote this in Victorian times, and presumably he was aware of the real identity of the star of Bethlehem.

From the astronomical point of view, the most troublesome aspect of the Biblical record is in Matthew 2 verse 9 - "...and, lo, the star which they saw in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was". In fact, as the astronomers journeyed south from Jerusalem to Bethlehem on 4 December, the third conjunction would have been ahead of them all the time. One can imagine their reaction - except one does not have to. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy" (v10).

Roger Highfield is right to say the debate will continue. That does not mean that the facts are not available. HENRY SPYVEE
Chichester, Essex

A seasonal saving

Sir: An article by Janet Fricker on your Home Life page ("A little list and a lot of bother", 15 November) has just saved us well over £2,000.

We had just completed some alterations to our listed cottage, and paid the builder's bill which included a substantial sum of VAT. In her article Fricker clearly explained that the work we had done, which involved moving the

staircase from the centre of the sitting room to another part of the house, should have been exempt from VAT. Having telephoned the local VAT office I was assured that this information was correct and they helpfully sent a booklet on VAT for builders which included a certificate of VAT exemption.

I was particularly delighted to see this article when I did, as we had been assured by both the builder and the architect that we would have to pay VAT. There was an element of malicious pleasure in getting something back from the tax man for once.

JUDITH PEARSON
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

NHS rationing

Sir: Fran Abrams' article "Doctors who choose to reject the old" (17 December), told only half the story about institutionalised discrimination against the elderly in the NHS.

For decades there has been collusion between government and the medical profession in rationing care, while maintaining the NHS is the best in the world. Two groups have been particularly easy to deprive, the elderly and the socially disadvantaged. Until recently both groups were grateful for any health care they received and seemed to be unaware they were getting second best. What is rationing but a means for generating care to the elderly?

I would welcome legislation that ended discrimination based on age, but ending ageist apartheid within the NHS would have major financial implications. To pass legislation without the financial wherewithal to implement it would be a cynical charade.

SIMON J. ELLIS
Consultant Neurologist
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire

Sir: As a dentist with a nearly 100 per cent NHS practice, I read John Hunt's comments on NHS underfunding (letter, 22 December) with much interest.

Down the years, more and more

has been demanded of us, whether as employers or clinicians, and the resources have not been available from the NHS to meet those demands. The process cannot go on; I cannot allow my income to go on falling as it is at present.

However, at least I graduated from dental school free of debt. Today's new dental graduate has, on average, £9,500 of debt, nearly £2,000 more than the average new medical graduate.

At this point in their careers, they have a clear choice. They can either leave the NHS and have a financial structure to enable them to meet properly increasing demands and aspirations (from public, patients, and staff) or they can take their chance with the NHS. Under present circumstances, the wise choice is only too obvious. If the

Government wishes NHS dentistry to survive, never mind prosper, it has some hard thinking to do.
EDWARD B. STRACHAN
Cheshire, Cheshire

The Brussels yoke

Sir: As one of the "Euroscopics" so derided in J W Holmes' letter (23 December), I would like to put the record straight.

Harmonizing "taxation, financial and social matters" with the rest of the EU in the way he exhorts us to do would mean adopting a model which is not only alien to our way of life but also manifestly failing. Why should any citizen of this land want to be taxed and regulated more, or to more than double his chances of being unemployed?

Mr Holmes also urges us to

"adopt the euro as soon as possible", citing the ability to devalue as the only advantage of having one's own currency - he chooses to ignore the fact that currency values change as part of the action of the markets, reflecting the relative performances of economies.

Having one's own currency allows the authorities to set economic policy to suit domestic conditions. Many millions of Britons suffered great hardship when we last gave up the ability to do this, during the ERM fiasco. EMU presents all of the same problems, but does not even give the possibility of escape.

We were to follow Mr Holmes' advice, we would turn our back on our history and values, and lock ourselves irrevocably into a bureaucratic, sclerotic, European superstate. It is a sad sign of the

degree to which our national self-confidence has been undermined that this is seriously suggested as the best future for us.

Far from being country humpkins, we Euroscopics raise our eyes to the broad horizons available to the UK as a great trading nation, with the fifth largest economy in the world. It is within our reach to do so much better - if we can just free ourselves from the yoke of rule from Brussels.
AUSTIN SPREADBURY
London EN2

Pinochet's rights

Sir: Richard Mann (letter, 22 December) argues that "Amnesty should support the Law Lords' decision to have a second hearing" in the Pinochet case.

Indeed we do support the need for the judicial process to be both fair and seen to be fair, and that includes the right to challenge a judicial decision. The fact that the victims of crimes against humanity in Chile never received a fair hearing does not compromise in any way General Pinochet's absolute right to a fair and impartial trial.

Richard Mann is wrong, however, to suggest that Amnesty International is "another prosecution service". Amnesty International does not itself undertake private prosecutions, but it does urge governments and prosecuting authorities to investigate human rights abuses and ensure that those responsible are held accountable.

Merely complaining about human rights abuses is not enough, as the appalling cycle of recent crimes in Central Africa and the former Yugoslavia tragically testifies.

Unless we end impunity for such abuses, what hope do we have of preventing future crimes against humanity?

Has the agenda been set before the first meeting?
LAURA JONES
Dunbarton, West Glamorgan

competent alternative. Very British; very sickening
JOHN RUSKIN
Wombwell, South Yorkshire

Sir: I have concerns about a psychiatric bias in the Department of Health working group on the illness ME, set up to produce good practice guidelines for doctors.

The group has three sections, a key group writing the guidelines, a children's group, and a reference group, to comment on proceedings but with no decision-making power. Among others, the working group contains: seven psychiatric specialists (three in the key group), most known to view the illness as mainly psychological, and two counsellors or therapists.

There is one neurologist, and one immunologist - both of whom are on the reference group (with little power).

Has the agenda been set before the first meeting?
LAURA JONES
Dunbarton, West Glamorgan

IN BRIEF

1974 there was no Turkish army in Cyprus, except 650 Turkish soldiers allowed under the Cyprus settlement. Why then were the Turkish Cypriots pushed by the Greeks into ghettos on 3 per cent of the island, and under Greek siege for almost 10 years.
HAKKI MUFTUOZADE
London Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
London WC1

Sir: Well, that's that, then. You scribbled got him in the end ("Black Christmas for Blair as Mandelson and Robinson quit", 24 December). It took a while but you managed at last. It doesn't matter that he is clever with a breadth of vision rare in politics, dedicated and ready to work all hours. It doesn't matter that he has made the best contacts with industry for years, that he made it possible for the Labour Party to present itself as a

Sir: How sad that Roger Scruton should feel so compelled to see real and actual blood flow in order to propitiate his own self-perception and exercise his apparent anxieties ("Roger Scruton: Philosopher, musician, author, scourge of the left", 14 December). He calls hunting sport; others would call it moral degeneracy, which will always have its intellectual champions among a certain strata of society, just as every horror and atrocity has had in the past.
DAVE GODIN
Sheffield

Sir: Spencer A Grady (letter, 18 December) is oblivious to the fact that between December 1963 and July 1974 the Turkish Cypriots were subjected to the most heinous ethnic cleansing at the hands of the Greeks in Cyprus, as attested to by British documents. They were saved by the intervention of Turkey. About "peaceful co-existence" - between 1964 and

Action on Iraq

Sir: Ms Alibhai-Brown's tirade ("What's the point if you do this to Muslims", 24 December) against British politics shows an immaturity of breathtaking stature. Democracy is not a form of government that one can support whenever convenient.

Apparently, we charged into Iraq with "thoughtless policies and actions". I thought that we had eight years of tedious negotiations and endless "last warnings".

Racist Britain is to blame, it seems, for allowing Muslim suffering in Bosnia. I did not notice any Muslim countries jumping to their rescue. Is Indonesia responsible for Kurdish deaths in Iraq? Saudi Arabia for slaves in the Sudan? Apparently not.

Presumably, Britain's millions of Muslim immigrants prefer its "imperialist, ruthless, xenophobic, democratic, immorality" to their own native lands. Am I perhaps a little naive in expecting assimilation rather than demands, gratitude rather than tantrums?
TONY FREEMAN
London NW11

Sir: David Aaronovitch must be at least half my age, and therefore would not have experienced as a child the London Blitz - night after night living in an Anderson shelter, their corrugated iron sides shaking from the bombs dropping all around. Otherwise he would not have been so ready to state that there was "no alternative" to the bombing of Baghdad (Review, 22 December).

Can he really put pen to paper and admit, looking back at this war-torn century in which our species has been destroyed in greater numbers than ever before by our own hand, that there still really is "no alternative" to war?

What on earth was - and is - wrong with the lifting and ending of sanctions and giving the Iraqi people all the help we can muster to show the other, more humane side of our Western civilisation?
PETER PORTEOUS
Nubourne, West Sussex

Sir: The Prime Minister has announced that there is no quarrel with the Iraqi people, only the Iraqi tyranny and its military.

Doubtless the same sentiments have inspired the US, often with British support, either to set up, arm or support Suharto, Noriega, Marcos, Pinochet, the Shah of Iran, the family tyrannies whom Saddam threatens, indeed Saddam himself when he embarked on his war against Iran, when the West wanted a strong friend to oppose Islamic fundamentalism.

As Tony Blair himself recently remarked: "We must learn from our history... but not be mesmerised by it."
ADRIAN KOZLOWSKI
Birmingham

Sir: Amid the roar of questions being asked about the American action in bombing the Iraqis, one small but pertinent one risks being drowned out. Since it is almost certain that the action will have the effect of strengthening Saddam's hold on power, why exactly is this an aim of American policy?
CONNOR FERRIS
Exeter

Teutonic timetables

Sir: As one Bourne to another, may I pass on some advice to Arthur and Fiona Bourne (letter, 23 December) about the hopelessness of all the website timetable information provided by UK train operators?

Facing a similar bewilderment when living in Cambridge, I followed the suggestion of a Finnish friend and looked up German railways' website at www.bahn.de. To my astonishment, I found, in English as well as German, complete, accurate, up-to-date details of all trains in western Europe, including the UK.

It is perhaps another sign of the folly of rail privatisation in the UK that the Germans can get timetable information that is denied to the British public.
CHRIS BOURNE
Brussels

Can anybody remember how the alphabet goes?

ALL JOURNALISTS have their own system of fact-checking. Mine is quite simple and the most reliable of all. If I am doubtful of a fact, I print it unchecked. If it is right, I get away with it. If it is wrong, several readers will write to put me right.

In fact, they seem to enjoy putting me right, using such phrases as "I am surprised you didn't know that..." or "Honestly, Mr Kingston, I find it hard to believe you are unaware of the correct date of...". Thus I am educating myself and giving pleasure to readers at the same time.

Today I am going a little further than usual. Today I am actually going to plead for information. I have a collection of facts which is incomplete and I know of nowhere I can go for the missing information, nowhere like an encyclopae-

dia or dictionary. I doubt that I could consult the Internet, even were I able to. (Yes, much to the horror of people even older than myself, I am not yet properly hooked up to the Internet, and am in no hurry to be so.)

This all started the other day when I found myself saying to myself, "A for Ism, B for Lamb..." and stopped, wondering what I was saying. Then I remembered. It was the beginning of a quaint, joke alphabet taught to me by my father. The point of the alphabet was that it sounded as if it were a genuine alphabet, A for this, B for that. C for that and so on, but in fact it made use of pre-existing phrases and words to merely masquerade as an alphabet.

And now that I think of it, it didn't start "A for Ism". I think I made

that up. I think it started "Ay for Orses..."

Anyway, I never wrote it down, and I have never seen it written down, and now my father is dead, so it resides only in my memory, and before I forget any more of it, here is what I remember.

"Ay for Orses
Beef or Lamb
Cephus Salt
D'ave a Brick
Efferescence
At this point my memory clouds over for G and H, and comes back in for I, and continues rather patchily thereafter..."

Ivor Novello
Jaffa Oranges
"Ell For Leather
Emphasis
Over the Rainbow



MILES KINGSTON

What on earth is P for?
There is a French jazz violinist called Pifarelli, but that is a bit obscure

Queue for Nylons
Arf a Mo
Tea for Two

You've a Nerve
Vive la France

That's it. That's about all I can remember. But there must have been a complete alphabet, because anyone who constructed such an ingenious series of definitions must have constructed all 26.

Mark you, one or two of them are a little dated (I have to explain "Queue for Nylons" to younger people) and one or two depend on slightly twisted pronunciations. "Jaffa Oranges" only works if you pronounce Jaffa as Jay-fer, and I rather suspect that the missing K was "Kafir something", with Kafir similarly mispronounced.

But what can the others have been? Periodically I go through this litany in my head, hoping that the routine will trick my mind into producing the missing ones, but

whenever I get to G and N I go blank. "Geefa"? "Gee far"? "Enfa"?

"En for"? I feel a bit sorry about "Ell for leather", which seems the only possible solution to L, but which is a bit torpedoed by the fact that L really is for leather.

But I am even sorer about the ones I can't remember. What on earth is P for? There is a French jazz violinist called Pifarelli, but I think that is a bit obscure. And what about W? And X and Y and Z...?

Hold on, hold on. The mists of time have parted slightly and a voice is trying to tell me that Y is for Bath. Wife of Bath... Y for Bath... Yes, they sound pretty identical. Yes, I like Wife of Bath... But what about Z? "Zed for"? Zephyr, perhaps?

It is just possible, I suppose, that

S might be for Foetida, as in "Asa Foetida", but I have never heard anyone say *assafoetida*, only seen it written down, so I have no idea how it is pronounced.

In fact, I am not sure I have remembered correctly all the ones my father taught me. Did he really say "Over the Rainbow" or was it "O for a Muse of Fire"? Did he really say "Ivor Novello" or was it "I've a Funny Feeling..."?

Enough. This is a shameful appeal for information from readers. If you know any of the missing items, please tell me, so I can bring you the full and complete alphabet in turn. If I have got any wrong, please tell me.

If there is a website on the Internet listing all known odd alphabets, please don't tell me. I might be severely tempted to find it.

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Stubborn Serbs make independence for Kosovo more likely

YESTERDAY'S LULL in the Kosovo fighting will be met with that detached cynicism learned so painfully in Bosnia: we will believe a real truce when we see it. Winter has not frozen President Milosevic's desire to impose his will on the troubled province, nor the desire of the majority Albanian population for at least a measure of independence.

In this hour of fighting at least, troops loyal to President Milosevic are responding to sorties on behalf of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). But the Yugoslav army and police should not regard this as a convenient excuse for widespread military action.

Having removed Kosovo's rights under the Yugoslav constitution as one element in his nationalist strategy, President Milosevic has gone out of his way to inflame the feelings of its people. If the KLA is popular, it is due to Serbian intransigence: if the conflict is bitter, the Serbs have done nothing to heal its wounds.

Encouraging total independence, Western governments fear, could fracture the neighbouring republic of Macedonia and spread the conflict. But President Milosevic is doing his best to spread the conflict without our help. What will really fan the flames is to let his actions go unpunished.

Having been prepared to see the rest of Yugoslavia go to pieces in 1991 and 1992, there is no logical reason why we should not encourage Kosovo to free itself from Serbia's grasp. The province is technically part of Serbia, but that is due to Slobodan Milosevic's ruthless oppression of any sign of Albanian nationalism in the confused period covering the break-up of the old Yugoslavia. It should have at least held its status as an autonomous region. Milosevic scuppered that then, and may have to pay the price of even greater autonomy, if not independence, now.

It is clear that present policies are not working. Unarmed "observers" and "peace-keeping missions" are unable to do anything but stand by and note how many mortars and bullets are in the air at any one time. They are sitting targets for retaliation if we have to take real military action against Serbia.

They should be armed, and reinforced, or they should be removed. "Observers" are a way of showing governments are acting, without tackling the root causes of crisis: if Kosovo explodes, those nations who have so exposed their personnel may get more than they bargained for.

In the medium term, there is now no alternative to some form of autonomous Kosovo. Association with the rump Yugoslavia, though, can only be retained if Serbian policy becomes more moderate, a distant prospect while Mr Milosevic holds power in Belgrade. It would be better for all concerned if Western nations were to recognise military and diplomatic reality instead of deluding themselves that present policies can contain Kosovo indefinitely.



Shoppers are smarter than the stores think

THE BRITISH Retail Consortium's report that consumers are staying away from the sales has been taken to mean that consumers are frightened by predictions of recession. They have not been the only figures that can be read in this way: business surveys and official statistics have told the same story for months.

Doom-sayers have been ready to seize on evidence of impending recession. They argue that consumers are holding on to wages and savings longer, to cushion the blow of economic troubles. If price-cutting were to take hold in the desperate competition of a recession, then consumers will want to wait until they see how far prices fall.

This case does not stand up to sustained scrutiny. December surveys also showed that shoppers were sav-

ing more than they had the previous year, in order to spend in the sales. What looks at first sight like a sustained decline in sales may simply be the effects of a far better informed public, refusing to play the retailers' game in the run up to Christmas when they knew that large reductions will be available in January. We are willing to bet that January will turn out better than retailers are now predicting.

British retail chains continued until recently to enjoy large profit margins, undisturbed by the competitive storm blowing through other industries. Established names have been happy to trade on their high visibility and reputations, with results that are now apparent. Even Marks & Spencers, that bastion of the British High Street, is seeing itself squeezed.

Customers who travel to the United States and to continental Europe know that many goods in British stores are overpriced. They note that most items can be bought in America for two-thirds of their British prices. They are less willing to be taken for a ride, and are holding on to

their savings not in fear of losing their jobs, but in the certain knowledge that their money will soon buy more.

This process will continue, and accelerate. With the advent of the euro, it will be more difficult to hide how much more Britons pay for their purchases. The increased trade it will stimulate will mean more pressure to be allowed to buy goods, such as cars, that are much cheaper elsewhere in the European Union. Internet shopping, allowing consumers to buy from stores anywhere in the world, will make it more difficult for retailers to hide.

Inflation may continue to abate in the year ahead, and deflation take hold in many sectors: those shopping centres attracting the crowds yesterday were those containing shops offering the heaviest discounts, such as Lakeside in Essex. But a fall in prices need not always be feared, in Britain at least. For all the cries of pain from High Street shops, it will constitute a correction to their over charging, and a welcome end to the complacency that has allowed them to live on their past glories for far too long.

Who is person of the millennium? Someone rather like me, I expect

THE BEST game in town at the moment (the Mandelson affair having reached a premature climax almost before the foreplay had begun) is one invented by Radio 4's *Today* programme. It's called "Personality of the Millennium", and listeners are invited to write or e-mail in, and vote for the man or woman who they think most deserves this accolade.

No firm criteria have been established, but various nobles have been asked their views. The Archbishop of Canterbury chose a martyred predecessor, Thomas Cranmer, while William Hague defied those who expected him to pick Pitt the Younger or John Major, and enterprisingly plumped for Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. Other grandees have penetrated the early morning chaos of kids, nappies, breakfast and abductions to suggest Shakespeare and (did I dream it?) Pope John XXIII.

It is all, as the BBC's Peter Snow used to say when his by-election computer showed a potential Labour majority of 179 at the next election, "just a harmless bit of fun", the equivalent of the "Lifetime services award" at the Oscars, where some popular has-been, no longer a threat to anyone, gets a big round of applause.

I would suggest that - at the end of the next millennium - we sharpen the thing up by awarding a large cash prize, or a trip to Alpha Centauri, to the winner. But fun or not, such exercises are very interesting for what they say about us. These may be forced and artificial choices, but they are choices nevertheless.

Let us return to that thought later,

but imagine for the moment a meeting in a wintry hall somewhere in these isles exactly 1,000 years ago.

Over the beer and mead, as the chicken bones pile up on the mud floor, three men and one woman are playing the same game as us. They are: Brother Edgar, a tonsured monk of the Abbey of Whithy, Aethelwold, a wealthy thegn (or is he an ealdorman?); a blond, muscular Danish adventurer with a scarred face who answers to the name of Thorlil Thunderthighs, and "intermittently" a serving wench of dubious parentage, called Jutta.

The wind howls through the eaves as they all agree on one thing - it has been a very Dark Age. And they also accept Brother Edgar's one ground-rule, which is that Jesus himself is not a potential nominee. (Thorlil mutters that, by Odin, this is fine by him.) At first the thegn, Aethelwold is inclined towards Alfred the Great, on the basis that he united Saxon England, created a navy, defeated the Danes and translated Bede into Anglo-Saxon. Compared with the current apology for a monarch, Ethelred (25 years on the throne, and still not Ready), Alfred looks pretty good.

Thorlil snorts. If the Danes have been defeated, he demands, how come they run half of England? If he can't have the current Norse hero, Sweyn Forkbeard, then it's either Charlemagne of the Franks, or Erik the Red, discoverer of Greenland, for him. He does not know that - even as he quaffs - Erik's son, Leif, is sighting the coast of North America. Not that it matters, because nothing comes of it.

DAVID AARONOVITCH
How is it, she asks, that there are no women on their list? What about Boudicca, or those women of Rome?

Brother Edgar has the advantage of a classical education. He dismisses Caesar Augustus partly for his paganism and partly for falling outside the scope of the competition by being born before Christ. Attila was, when all is said and done, just a Hun. Among kings, then, Edgar goes for Constantine the Great. But he urges the others to think about the contribution made by the Church to such European civilisation as can be said to exist. Without monasteries, would any great manuscripts have survived? Would the flame of culture not have been extinguished?

He is torn between St Benedict, and our very own Venerable Bede, whose *Life of St Cuthbert*, is, he tells a scoffing Thorlil, something of a modern classic. However, if push comes to shove, he's going to choose a bloke

right from the very beginning of the millennium, good old Paul of Tarsus.

He is interrupted by the smashing of earthenware. Jutta, who has been alternately serving jugs of mead and offering her body to passing pedlars, has come over all premature feminist, and hurled a tray of beakers to the ground. How is it, she asks, that there are no women on their lists? What happened to Boudicca of the Iceni, or (of more recent provenance) Aethelflaeda, Queen of Mercia and Hammer of the Danes? Or even all those women of Byzantium, Rome, Ravenna and elsewhere, who had to keep the hearths warm and the bairns safe, while their menfolk went out and slew each other?

A post-coital pedlar, who has travelled a little, sympathises with Jutta, but keeps his counsel. Perhaps this would not be the best place to remind the company of that Arab prophet, Mohammed, and his dramatic impact on the modern world. And he's heard tell of India and far China, with their powders that go bang; huge walls that span continents, and fabulous wealth. But all that could all be rubbish. The pedlar himself cannot know that, across on the other side of the planet, on a peninsula later to be named Yucatan, there is a city called Chichen Itza, that is greater than almost any in the Western world.

He can't, but we can. In the thousand years that we survey retrospectively, most major happenings on Earth are known to us. Yet, as far as I can see, our inclinations and attitudes are nearly as parochial as those of the winter travellers of late 998. The

emperors and philosophers of China do not appear on our lists, nor do the builders of great wonders in Central Asia. Poets who had the misfortune to write in Persian or Hindi fail to qualify. And Jutta's (admittedly ahistorical) pleas are still going unheard. Indeed, for the most part, we seem to believe that the competition was entitled "Male Anglophone Personality of the Millennium".

Insularity is quite an important part of the Anglophone culture, and is taken to its extreme in the United States. I well remember meeting a representative of the United States Students Association in Weimar, East Germany in 1980. She was studying politics, but was unsure which country Moscow (where the Olympics were about to be held) was in. Was it Russia, she asked?

Given that this is so, it's a bit cheeky, this Personality of the Millennium lark. There is a good, democratic argument for saying that it's only valid if everybody from every country, who has lived during the last thousand years, is allowed to vote. So we should all be furnished with a copy of the entire second millennium electoral register, complete with full biographical details, and then permitted to make our choices.

On that basis let me now tell you who gets my vote for Personality of the Millennium - the one human being, born between 1000 and 2000 AD, who has made all the difference as far as I am concerned. And yes - it's me. Let me take a bow. Another middle-class, white, English-speaking male, I'm afraid. What about you?

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"People just aren't as materialistic as they used to be."
Ann Grain,
British Retail Consortium

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Silence is as full of potential wisdom and wit as the unheavenly marble of great sculpture."
Aldous Huxley,
British novelist and essayist

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FIGHTING HAS again erupted in Kosovo, shattering the ceasefire between Kosovo and Yugoslavia. Providing for a truce between the two parties, a withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo, and the safe return of refugees to their homes, the agreement has always been frightfully fragile. As such the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe mobilised 2,000 unarmed personnel to verify the implementation of the deal. But now

even the lives of the verifiers are in jeopardy as an all-out war threatens to engulf them. The people in Kosovo will also have to deal with the treacherous weather that sometimes leaves them out of reach of humanitarian aid. The situation is again urgent: the international community must intervene to guarantee Milosovic's compliance with the ceasefire, and ensure the right of the Kosovars to live in peace.

Gulf Times, UAE

ate" Kosovan "president", Ibrahim Rugova, who advocates a pacifist settlement. Belgrade has no intention of talking with the KLA, who it describes as a "terrorist organisation" while urging the rest of the international community to do the same.

Liberation, France

THE WEST realises that there are dangers in supporting Kosovar independence. Albanians in Macedonia might be emboldened to join a greater Albania, and other regional ethnic entities might demand their own states as well. The US and its allies should at least spare the world the spectacle of Western diplomats pretending to work for a solution that does not exist. Milosovic has proved to be a master at engineering crises to suit his own ends. Now he's killing Kosovars again. No one can blame them for not trusting him.

The Wall Street Journal

RIGHT
OF REPLY

J M AMIR

The Malaysian High Commissioner replies to Anwar Ibrahim's criticisms of the Malaysian Government

ANWAR IBRAHIM'S article is a desperate attempt to cast aspersions on the integrity of the Malaysian Government and its Prime Minister. He was dismissed from office on account of his alleged misuse of power and sexual misconduct, offences that call for indictment.

It would, therefore, be very misleading to imply that his arrest is politically motivated. He was arrested on 20 September 1998, under the Internal Security Act because he had acted, and was about to further act, in a manner prejudicial to the security of Malaysia, by instigating the people who attended his gathering to go against the democratically-elected government. Anwar Ibrahim was released unconditionally from ISA detention on 14 October 1998, but he continues to be remanded in custody pending his trial, since he was not allowed bail on the grounds that he might tamper with witnesses relating to his charge, if released. The trial itself is already well into its 33rd day today. In Malaysia, trials have always been fair.

Malaysia has respectable legal and judicial procedures in place that are independent of the executive. The many prominent lawyers enlisted to defend Anwar Ibrahim in court give credence to the openness and fairness of the judicial system. The trial is not about power, but truth.

We would also wish to mention that the Malaysian press discharged its responsibilities in a balanced manner, not merely to serve the interests of one man. The foreign media accuses the Malaysian government of controlling the press, but the foreign media is doing the same - it has hardly given the Malaysian government's side an airing. Malaysia has always allowed dissent and there has always been a group of vocal oppositionists in Parliament, ever since 1955.

Until his dismissal, Anwar Ibrahim was a senior member of the Cabinet, which decides on measures necessary for the economic recovery of the country. He was party to all policy decisions of the National Economic Recovery Plan (NERP), which was unanimously endorsed by the Malaysian Cabinet in July 1998. The NERP itself was arrived at by consensus, after thorough discussion by prominent people from the relevant bodies in Malaysia.

It is, therefore, a falsehood for anyone to suggest that PM Mahathir Mohamad is the sole architect of Malaysia's economic programmes. We Malaysians believe that the NERP is putting the country on the right course.

We'll be knock-kneed with sexual exhaustion

TERENCE
BLACKER

The end of the millennium will be, to all but the most libidinally challenged, a sexual wake-up call

While some of these processes are already taking place - prisoners being released throughout Northern Ireland, the former paymaster-general throwing money at any political colleague who is short of a bob or two - the problem facing us is simple: it's all going to get a lot worse over the next 12 months.

The new honesty between husbands and wives concerning past and present infidelities, for example, may be thought to be a healthy development in this age of apology, but already it has posed a problem in some marriages. Sociologists estimate that a small but significant proportion of married couples - perhaps as high as 12 per cent - are still being faithful to one another on a regular basis, and therefore have nothing to confess.

This is likely to change over the coming year. The end of a millennium is a powerful social reminder of the passing of time and the inevitability of death which will act, to all but the most libidinally challenged, as a sexual wake-up call. Like a group of animals under severe stress, or like pilots due to fly in to action on the morrow, we shall experience a powerful, all-embracing urge to mate with virtually anyone. Noting the universal contagion of fast, angry, tearful sex between strangers, trivial-minded journalists may, from force of habit, describe this social process as

"casual sex". This is to miss the point completely: the more meaningless the chance encounters they experience, the more meaningful they will be to the participants.

The usual *Daily Mail* columnists will bleat and bray about the decline in moral standards, resisting for as long as possible the demands of their own lower natures, before they inevitably succumb in a messy, psychologically complex way. Many will follow the example of the famous blood-and-thunder moralist who this year was revealed to enjoy being put across his mistress's lap and spanked with a deluxe leather-bound edition of the *St James Bible*. We can expect exceptional sales of the Holy Book during 1999.

Yet, as we become increasingly obsessed with sensual pleasure (the feverish, decadent obsession with food is likely to tighten its grip on the television schedules), a great spiritual yearning will also become evident. It will be the year of the public therapist. Bishops will do a lot of talking, and may even be taken seriously on occasions. Creative

artists will become moral and spiritual arbiters. Politicians and journalists will be replaced on *Question Time* by the new heroes of the age: Beryl Bainbridge, Pam Ayres, Robbie Williams and Sir David Hare. The new poet laureate, Andrew Motion will become a regular guest for Anna Raeburn's share-your-pain phone-in on Talk Radio, dispensing gentle, and occasionally lyrical, views on matters of commitment, kids and co-dependency.

Because, as is already becoming clear, we have entered an age in which thought has surrendered the field to feeling. The new taboo, replacing sex (now regarded as a banal, everyday appetite to which we all have a right), is caring and compassion, about which no commentator or satirist will dare to joke. The past year has shown how any memoir treating illness or suffering in a frank, autobiographical manner, will be praised as a masterpiece by critics terrified to be thought heartless. Such will be the new addiction to sentiment that, in the coming months, an Insensitivity Act will be

amended to Jack Straw's Crime and Disorder Bill and announced in the Queen's Speech, during which Her Majesty will break down. Budget Day will be delayed because the Chancellor is feeling depressed, and in the autumn, a talented and charismatic five-year-old from Hackney will be appointed the new Minister for Children and Animals. This time next year, the Christmas hit will be *What Was My Name Again*, a number sung by Alzheimer sufferers, backed by a choir of primary schoolchildren, and arranged by Sir Paul McCartney.

I can see that the later stages of our global crack-up may not appeal to everyone, but the advice of pundits is that to fight these pre-millennial impulses is like trying to resist history. Remember that, at this time next year, as we face the next 1,000 years, bloated, tearful, knock-kneed with sexual exhaustion, our prisons groaning with those who have not cared enough, the feverish nightmare of our breakdown will be almost over, and that normal life will soon resume once more.

Having scuppered the inspectors, let's not fail the Iraqi opposition



JULIE FLINT

A new policy is needed if Saddam is not to re-arm behind a charade of watered-down inspections

ONCE AGAIN, bombing Iraq has resulted not in the humbling of Saddam Hussein but in new challenges to the US and British rump of the Allied forces who went to war against him in 1990.

Bloodied but not bowed, Saddam is no longer challenging just the weapons inspectors of the United Nations Special Commission (Unscm), but the no-fly zones patrolled by British and American planes in Northern and Southern Iraq.

Almost three months after the US Congress passed the Iraq Liberation Act, endorsing the Iraqi opposition with \$99m (£61m), including \$97m for arms and training, Saddam is obsessed by the fear of a Western-backed uprising in Iraq. Unscm no longer poses a real threat to his regime: long weakened by divisions within the Security Council, the inspectors' only route back to Baghdad after Operation Desert Fox lies in political compromise that will fatally undercut their ability to operate. But the Iraq Liberation Act could activate the latent opposition to Saddam's hated regime, and bring about a replay of the popular uprising of 1991 - backed this time by organisation and no-fly zones able to enforce a military exclusion zone from the air.

Nowhere is Saddam's concern more apparent than in the Baghdad press, which incessantly warns of the dangers of partition, and in his effort to rally the Arab states to demand an end to Western intrusion. In the days since Desert Fox ended, Saddam has used every contact he has in the Arab world to put pressure on pro-Western Arab governments. The United Arab Emirates has called for an Arab summit. There have been demonstrations from Egypt and Morocco to Syria.

But under his bluster Saddam knows that anti-aircraft fire will not demolish the no-fly zones. His only hope lies in continuing the tension,

in provoking the United States and Britain into further acts of "aggression" like yesterday's American attack on his air defence sites.

On the other side, however, Washington's commitment to liberating Iraq appears limited by the fiction that Unscm can still be an effective weapon. Tony Blair has even held out hope of "a new and better regime". After the bombing, the pretence - not only that Unscm may survive Desert Fox, but that it may emerge strengthened, to continue its search for weapons of mass destruction.

The view from Unscm is very different. Even before Iraq asserted that Desert Fox had "killed Unscm", the mood among weapons inspectors was grim.

"We are the skunk at the garden party, because we continue to demonstrate that Iraq has not done what it has to do," says a senior Unscm official. "We have made the Security Council's policy look ineffectual and (Secretary General) Kofi Annan's agreement with Iraq look useless. All the Council wants to do is pat itself on the back and boast about its contribution to world peace. Ditto for the 38th floor [where the Secretary General has his offices]. I don't rule out that we will be back doing work in Iraq in some fashion. But what passes for a brains trust on the 38th floor is not going to make us more effective."

In the past seven years, Unscm has destroyed much of Saddam's weaponry. But Iraq has yet to give a full accounting of its production of VX gas, the most toxic nerve gas in its possession, and still has to define the full scope of its biological warfare programme. Only last year, a full six years into an inspection meant to last only a few weeks, a British inspector discovered that Iraq was close to weaponising ricin - a lethal plant toxin previously known only as a weapon of assassination.

The same inspector believes that much more remains to be discovered. "We still don't know all the people involved in the BW programme - we haven't even identified the head of the programme - and I for one believe we have only seen a slice of it. In all its other weapons programmes, Iraq has followed multiple routes with multiple teams. We can't prove it's the same with BW, but we're worried."

But not worried enough, in the opinion of some. The opposition Iraqi National Congress claims that Iraq is also continuing work on its

nuclear programme, importing significant quantities of heavy metals like titanium through Dubai and despatching agents across the former Soviet Union in search of fissile material for four implosion bombs believed to have been assembled.

But rather than remind the big five of the fundamentals agreed on in 1991 - the need to find and destroy all Saddam's weapons of mass destruction, and then to put in place a monitoring regime - the Secretary General is seeking to make Unscm more politically acceptable. Consideration is being given to placing its component parts in other UN bodies such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (whose inspectors gave Iraq a clean bill of health even as it was developing a vast A-bomb programme) and the Organisation

for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons - monitoring agencies which lack Unscm's robustness and investigative powers.

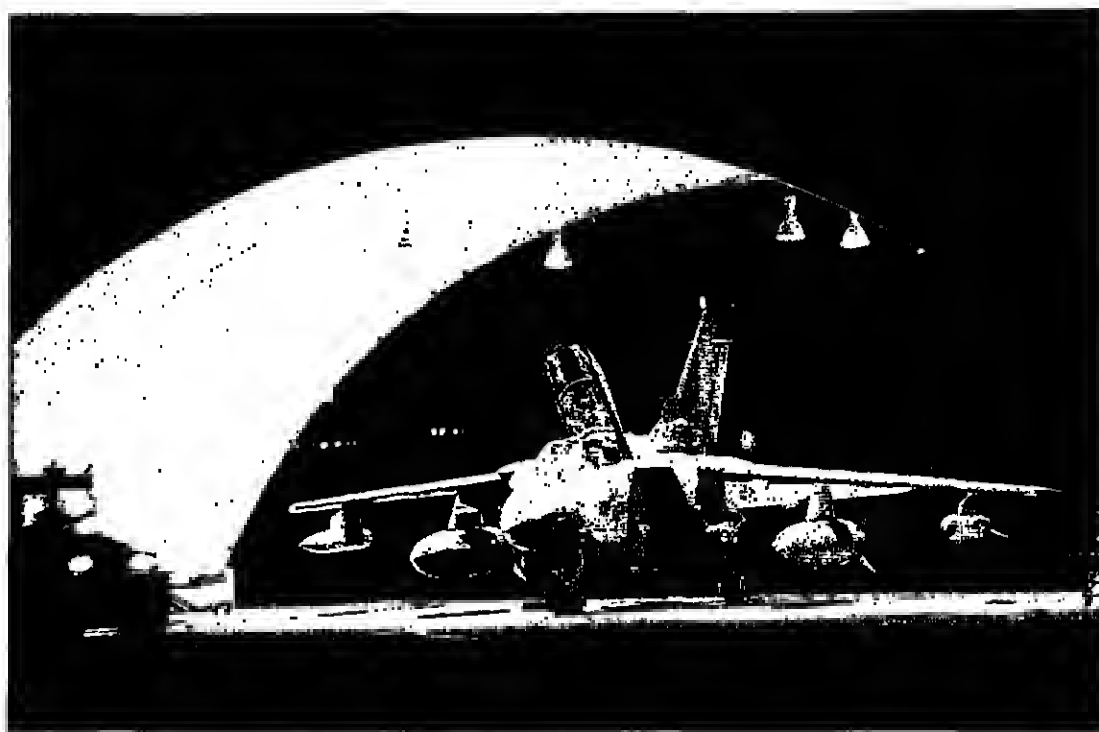
The Unscm inspectors are in no doubt as to what this would mean. "The bombing has set Unscm back eight years," says one source. "Dilute it any more and it would be dangerous." Given the disarray in the Security Council, any future inspection regime can only be a pale imitation of the regime that existed before Desert Fox.

The international community's best effort to render Saddam Hussein harmless has failed, and a radically new policy direction is needed if Saddam is not to hide - and re-arm - behind a charade of watered-down inspections. Barring a miracle in the Security Council, that

policy can only be to support the Iraqi National Congress - the most serious attempt since the Gulf war to establish an all-Iraqi opposition movement to overthrow Saddam.

Badly weakened by Allied indecision as well as by its own internal tensions, the INC has made major strides in recent months towards reconstructing the consensus that existed after the Gulf war. It has also drawn up a plan of military action with the help of retired General Wayne Downing who, as commander of US Special Forces until 1996, harassed Saddam's Scud launches in the Gulf war and restricted his operations in the Western desert.

Supporting the INC is not without its dangers. But the Allies have failed Unscm. They must not now fail the opposition.



An RAF Tornado in Kuwait being prepared for action

Andy Stenning

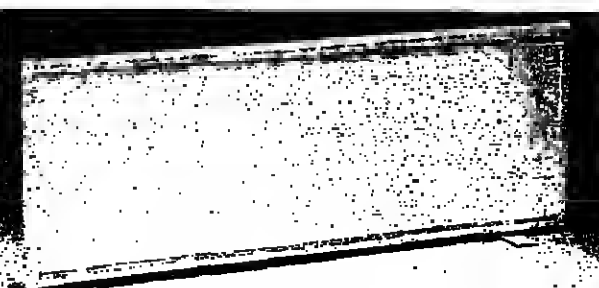
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PANDORA

WITH THE sudden departure of Peter Mandelson, his chief strategist in the Cabinet, Tony Blair must regard the next 12 months with some trepidation. What should he choose as his New Year's resolution? While he sits on the beach in the Seychelles, still reeling from all the New Labour "outrages" and financial disclosures of the past few months, the hot tropical sun beating down on his milky brow, how can Tony possibly make this important decision alone? Fortunately, Pandora is willing to come to the Prime Minister's assistance. Readers are invited to send, fax or telephone this diary their suggestions for Tony's New Year's resolution by noon on Thursday, Pandora will then forward them all to Downing Street in time to be communicated to the Prime Minister before midnight, Seychelles time. And for the originator of the resolution that Pandora thinks most befitting: a bottle of delicious Orkney Islands malt whisky.

JANET STREET PORTER and Ann Widdecombe MP comprise the main "attractions" of a very sobering evening entitled "Alcohol and School: Why every child should get it" to be held in

April at the ICA. The discussion is one of a series of events organised by the Portman Group. It will no doubt be an enlightening occasion as Janet is no stranger to the dangers of alcohol: she had a glass of champagne thrown at her earlier this year at the Groucho. Tony Ann Widdecombe is no stranger to the "wet and dry" dialogue either. And don't be surprised by the invitation's promise of "drinks and canapes". After all, the Portman Group is sponsored by the drinks industry.

THE EBULLIENT society hostess, Carla Powell, was quick off the mark to support her friend Peter Mandelson, describing him as a veritable puritan, the Stakhanovite equal to Maggie Thatcher, boss to her husband Sir Charles Powell, in *The Sunday Telegraph*. That was not quite her view of New Labour when she offered the *New Statesman* an article only two weeks ago. Then she rallied against the "increasing ease with which those of mediocre talents rise to the top by virtue of their flexible principles and capacity for self-promotion."

And what happened to those most precious of observations?

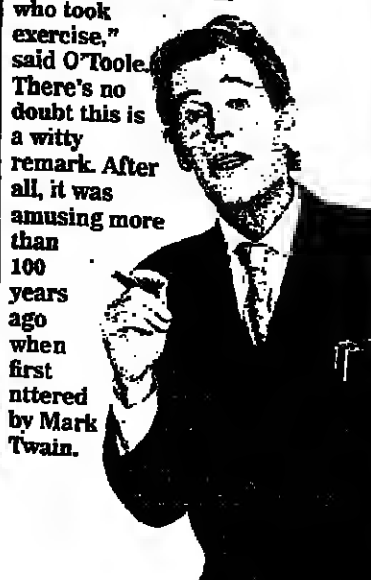
She called up, according to the *New Statesman*, to say that her husband (whose brother, Jonathan, is Tony Blair's chief of staff) thought it impolitic.

AFICIONADOS OF West Indian cricket have long regretted the departure from the team of evocatively named Floyd Reifer. However, they are now delighted by the appearance of a new name on the team sheet: Darren Ganga. He batted in 94 runs against South Africa on Boxing Day. Truly smokin'!

ACTRESS MEG RYAN seems to be having a bit of difficulty combining her "girl next door" image with her Hollywood megastar status. Not content with a series of cloyingly cute romantic comedy roles, she is very keen to portray the suicidal poetess Sylvia Plath on screen (as reported by Pandora on 14 May). Most recently, Meg gave an interview in which she was asked if it was difficult to maintain an ordinary lifestyle when, in fact, you were a major celebrity. "Honestly? No," Meg gushed, then recounted her most recent family holiday - at a resort in Java. "It was unbelievable. There was a

waterfall that took forever to get to and wild pigs running around." Ryan earned \$10.5m for her last film appearance and lives on a ranch in Montana with its own go-kart track.

PETER O'TOOLE (pictured) was represented in all the Sunday newspapers' "quotes of the year" features this weekend. "The only exercise I take is walking behind the coffins of friends who took exercise," said O'Toole. There's no doubt this is a witty remark. After all, it was amusing more than 100 years ago when first uttered by Mark Twain.



Irene Hervey

A DIMPLED beauty, Irene Hervey was a popular film performer of the 1930s and early 1940s who starred with her husband Allan Jones in *The Boys From Syracuse*. Their son, Jack Jones, is the popular singer, and though Hervey's films included such classics as *The Count of Monte Cristo* with Robert Donat, and *Destry Rides Again*, in which she won the hero James Stewart, she is now more remembered for her extensive later work in television, and as Jack Jones's mother.

The daughter of a sign painter, Hervey was born Irene Herwick in Los Angeles in 1910. She married a musician while still in her teens, and four years later was a young divorcee with a baby girl to support. A friend introduced her to a casting agent at MGM, who suggested she train as an actress after which he would arrange a screen test.

Hervey's mother was a practitioner of Christian Science, and one of her pupils was the veteran actress Emma Dunn, who agreed to become the girl's coach. A successful screen test at MGM ensued, and Hervey made her film debut in King Vidor's drama *The Stranger's Return* (1933), playing the wife of an Iowa farmer, Franchot Tone. She also played a small role in *Hollywood Party* (1933), and was featured in two Pete Smith shorts, *Attention Seekers* and *Taking Care of Baby* (both 1934).

In the *Crime Does Not Pay* two-reeler *A Thrill for Theima* (1935), she starred as a young girl who tries the easy route to a life of luxury and ends up in prison, but Hervey spent most of her time on loan to other studios, including Fox, Paramount, United Artists, Columbia and Monogram. At Fox, she played the female lead in *Charlie Chan in Shanghai* (1935), one of the best of that excellent series, in which the detective used her powder-puff to discover finger-prints on a gun. At MGM, she became briefly engaged to their rising young star Robert Taylor. Both the studio and Taylor's possessive mother disap-

'A beautiful combination of delicately aristocratic poise and ease'

proved, feeling marriage would be bad for the actor's career, but Hervey later stated that it was the actor's "impossible jealousy" that caused their romance to end. Shortly afterwards, at a party given by the director Raoul Walsh, Hervey met Allan Jones. "By the end of the evening," stated Hervey, "we had become entranced with each other." Jones's first wife, Marjorie Buell, received her divorce from him on 25 July 1936, and the very next day Jones and Hervey were married. Their son John Allan (later known as Jack Jones) was born in 1938.

Hervey asked for her release from MGM shortly after her marriage, and she was then signed by Universal, where her husband was under contract. Her first film for the studio, *The Lady Fights Back* (1937),

hit *The Boys From Syracuse* (1940), Hervey was featured with her husband Allan Jones and sang the lovely "Falling in Love With Love", one of the few songs retained from the stage score. Less prestigious films in which she starred included *Mr Dynamite* (1940), pursuing Nazi saboteurs with Lloyd Nolan, *Bombay Clipper* (1942), helping the reporter William Gargan uncover a gang of international crooks, *Frisco I.I.* (1942), as a croupier working to clear her father of a murder charge, and the bizarre thriller *Night Monster* (1942).

The syndicated columnist Jack O'Brian described Hervey as "a beautiful combination of delicately, naturally aristocratic poise and ease", and critics compared her to Myrna Loy, but the studio seemed unwilling to give her a major opportunity. The actress herself said that she was never ambitious, and announced upon her marriage to Jones that her family would always come "first and foremost". (Jones legally adopted Hervey's daughter Gail.)

In 1943 Hervey was seriously injured in a car crash, which led to an enforced retirement for five years. She returned to films (and Universal) to play the wife of William Powell in the comedy *Mr Peabody and the Mermaid* (1948), and displayed elegant sophistication in occasional character roles in such films as *Chicago Deadline* (1949) with Alan Ladd, and *Manhandled* (1949), Lewis Foster's intriguing thriller with starts with Hervey's apparent murder by her husband - it transpires that she is witnessing the husband's recurring dream.

Hervey and Jones were divorced in 1957, by which time Hervey had become a prolific performer on television. She acted in such prestigious live shows as *Studio One*, *Playhouse 90* and *Mattinee Theatre*, and was a guest star on *Perry Mason*, *Burke's Law*, *Burns and Allen*, *Doctor Kildare* and *Ironsides*. For several seasons she had an ongoing role in the soap opera *The Young Marrieds*. In



Hervey and Allan Jones in *The Boys from Syracuse*, 1940. Kobal

1965 she played a regular role on the series *Honey West* as the detective heroine's tough Aunt Meg, and in 1969 was nominated for an Emmy Award for her performance in an episode of *My Three Sons*. Her last screen role was in Clint Eastwood's powerful thriller *Play Misty For Me* (1971), as a wealthy San Franciscan who offers the disc-jockey Eastwood a job in network radio.

Still slender and elegant, with a stylish grey coiffure, she was given a position with the Valley Oaks Travel Agency in Sherman Oaks, California, and enjoyed taking advantage of the free travel her job offered, flying to attend her son's night-club openings all over the world. Both her

children had made her a grandmother. Though she stated at the time of her divorce that she would doubtless remarry, Joan Hervey never did. "To my surprise," she said in 1987, "I discovered solitude, something I had never experienced. I found it very much to my liking. And my children are very close, both in physical distance and in the even more important sense. I am greatly blessed and very grateful."

TOM VALLANCE

Irene Herwick (Irene Hervey), actress: born Los Angeles 11 July 1910; twice married (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 20 December 1998.

Jack Hilton

JACK HILTON had a distinguished playing career for Wigan and Great Britain, but undoubtedly made a bigger impact on the history of Britain's most successful rugby league club long after he had retired.

He was already a long-serving member of the large and unwieldy Wigan board of directors - indeed he was taking his turn as chairman - when the club was turned upside down by a boardroom coup in 1982. Three relatively new directors - Maurice Lindsay, Jack Robinson and Tom Rathbone - wanted to reverse the club's decline by effectively taking it over, getting rid of the rest of the board and running the operation on what they regarded as a properly businesslike basis.

Hilton was an unlikely revolutionary, but his vision of the potential of the club was sufficiently similar for him to throw his lot in with the radicals. Although he ran a string of sports shops, Hilton admitted from the start that he did not have much spare money to invest, but the others saw the advantages of having him on board.

Unlike them, he was an ex-Wigan player and, according to Lindsay's recollection, "being well-known and respected in town was able to provide a friendly face for the revolution". Or, as Robinson puts it: "He made the four of us a good blend." So the Gang of Three became the Gang of Four, with Hilton included among the new directors for a "cut-price" £10,000 whilst six other members of the old board were unceremoniously dropped in rugby league's version of the Night of the Long Knives.

Hilton provided continuity and respectability by remaining as chairman and diluting the impression that the club was being appropriated by flash arrivistes. Lindsay and, to a lesser extent Robinson, were the driving forces and Rathbone provided much of the finance, but there was more to Hilton's role than that of a mere figurehead.

Lindsay has referred to the value of Hilton's "quiet wisdom" and the

way that, unlike many ex-players, he was not consumed by nostalgia for the past, preferring to concentrate on what could be achieved in the future. That turned out to be beyond anyone's wildest dreams. Starting with the John Player Trophy in 1983 - their first trophy for 12 years - Wigan embarked on a campaign of collecting silverware that saw them dominate the British game to an almost unhealthy extent for over a decade. Hilton took his turns leading the team out at Wembley, but most of the time he remained a quiet, dignified presence in the background, looking on benignly whilst his beloved club demolished all comers.

Hilton handed over the chairmanship to Lindsay in 1987, but remained on the board until 1996, when he resigned in protest against plans to sell the Central Park ground, after completing more than half a century of involvement with his home-town club.

Although he first played professionally for Salford, he had joined Wigan as a young winger after being wounded by shrapnel in the wrist and thigh in North Africa during the Second World War. He was a regular in Wigan's excellent post-war side until 1953, when he took over as sprint coach. His Wigan career saw him score a prolific 122 tries in his 137 appearances, including a hat-trick or better on no less than 13 occasions.

His most memorable year was 1950, when he was one of eight Wigan players selected to tour Australia and New Zealand. He played two Tests for Great Britain in each country - the sum total of his international career - but the most remarkable fact is that Wigan still managed to win the championship final after more than half their team had departed on tour.

DAVE HADFIELD

Jack Hilton, rugby league player and administrator: born Wigan 2 May 1921; married 1947 Olive Smith (one son); died Wigan 22 December 1998.

Cathal Goulding



'Defeat imperialism and capitalism in all of Ireland'

THE DUBLIN playwright Brendan Behan once quipped that at IRA meetings the first item on the agenda was very often "the split". The remark, though meant to raise a smile, aptly sums up much of the career of Cathal Goulding, Behan's old IRA colleague.

Goulding's career included many years as IRA chief of staff, many more seeking to break into politics, and an exotic love-life which included having a son by Behan's widow.

He played a crucial role in Republicanism at the time of the birth of the Provisional IRA in 1969-70. He talked to persuade the hard-faced men of Belfast to follow him into Marxism, watching powerlessly as they instead marched off to fight the war which has cost so many lives in the last three decades.

The course of his career says much of how Republicanism has changed in the last half-century. In 1953 he found himself in a Hertfordshire dock together with the Republican Sean MacStiofain, with whom he later split, getting eight years for stealing a van-load of rifles. MacStiofain recalled: "Without

retiring, the jury found us guilty in a record 90 seconds by the simple procedure of turning to each other and nodding their heads." Even by that stage Goulding was an IRA veteran, he and Behan having joined in the 1930s as schoolboys in short trousers.

The Republican tradition had run for generations in the Dublin working-class Goulding family, his father and grandfather both having rebelled for Ireland. Cathal made his living as a painter and decorator, though it was a career interrupted by a total of 16 years spent in British and Irish jails.

His Hertfordshire escapade meant that he missed most of the IRA's disastrous "border campaign" in the late 1950s and 1960s, which ignominiously fizzled out in the face of overwhelming nationalist apathy. When, in the early 1960s, he became IRA chief of staff, he was leader of an organisation which barely existed.

For Ireland, however, the 1960s were a time of great modernisation and the challenging of long-accepted ideas, and the IRA itself changed. Goulding, linking up with left-wing

intellectuals, became attracted to Marxism and concluded it was time to broaden Republicanism's horizons. Socialism and internationalism, which had always been strains within Republicanism, were elevated above gelligaite and the Thompson

gun. Goulding later wrote that the IRA changed its slogan from "Get the British troops out of the north" to "Defeat imperialism and capitalism in all of Ireland".

In the heady days of the 1960s the IRA became almost hip. As Eamonn Mallie and Patrick Bishop

wrote in their book *The Provisional IRA* (1987):

In 1969 Goulding was often to be found in the fashionable bars around St Stephen's Green, drinking with writers, musicians and painters, a recognised feature of Dublin bohemia.

His revolutionary style at that time was closer to Berkeley campus and the Rive Gauche than the bogs and backstreets where the IRA tradition was rooted. Critics of his leadership invariably portrayed him as a good but easily influenced man fallen among Marxist highbrows.

The pubs of Dublin were a world away from the grim sectarian realities of Belfast, where August 1969 brought hand-to-hand fighting in the backstreets and the first deaths of the Troubles. Northern Republicans claimed that Goulding had fiddled while Belfast burned, and that what they needed was guns and not quixotic dreams of uniting Catholic and Protestant workers in a new utopia.

It was not long before traditionalists like MacStiofain broke away to form the Provisional IRA and Provisional Sinn Féin, leaving Goulding in charge of a much-depleted organisation which became known as

the Official IRA. The Provisionals went on to dominate Republicanism in the north.

Goulding was left with most of the ideas but little of the manpower. He may have been hoping for broad left alliances and a steady move away from the gun and into politics but in the north many of his men were opening fire on soldiers and the RUC. He found himself giving graveside orations over the coffins of Official IRA volunteers, often threatening retaliation for their deaths.

The Official IRA's most spectacular act of violence was also its most inept. This was the attack on the Parachute Regiment's Aldershot headquarters within weeks of "Bloody Sunday" in 1972, when paratroopers had shot dead 14 people in Londonderry. The seven people killed at Aldershot were six members of the domestic staff and a Catholic padre.

During the 1970s the Officials (or "Stickies" as they were nicknamed) killed about 50 people and had around 40 of their members and supporters killed in return. Many of the casualties were caused by out-

breaks of vicious feuding with the IRA and other republican groups.

The Official IRA remains in existence, though today it is not so much an openly active terrorist organisation as an armed gang surreptitiously involved in running pubs, clubs and other business enterprises.

In the south of Ireland Cathal Goulding and others moved towards more conventional political activity and the political mainstream. But again there were splits and again he ended up in the smaller faction, so that as his life ended he was attached to a tiny grouping.

His career thus began in the IRA at a time when it was an essentially inconsequential grouping, and ended in a politically inconsequential party. In between, however, he was witness to some formative events with historic consequences for all of Ireland.

DAVID MCKITTRICK

Cathal Goulding, political activist: born Dublin 30 December 1922; married (four sons); died Dublin 26 December 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

BAILEY: To Delyse and Brian on 27 December at Warrington, a son, Alastair James.

DEATHS

KAUFMAN: Dr Solomon (Sullivany) died on 25 December 1998 at home, aged 90, after a long illness courageously borne. Deeply mourned by his children Jonathan and Laura, his entire family and numerous friends and colleagues. Funeral private, memorial service to be announced later.

ANNOUNCEMENTS are charged at 50p a line (VAT extra).

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

BIRTHDAYS

June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, musical director and conductor, 85; Mr Andrew Bache, ambassador to Denmark, 59; Sir Richard Beaumont, former diplomat, 86; Lord Beaverbrook, former Chairman, Beaverbrook Foundation, 47; Mr John Connell, former chairman, Distillers Co. 74; Mr Bernard Cribbins, actor, 70; Baroness Deaton of Wakefield, former government minister, 63; Miss Marianne Faithfull, singer and actress, 52; General Sir Robert Ford, former Governor, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 75; Chief David Hall, former Chief Constable of Humberside, 68; Sir Simon Hornby, President, Royal Horticultural Society, 64; Mr Terry Lewis MP, 63; Miss Mary Tyler Moore, actress, 61; Mr Martin Offiah, Rugby League international, 32; Mr Iain Paxton, rugby player, 41; Mr Peter Robinson MP, 50; Mr Alan Rusbridger, Editor, *The Guardian*, 45; The Right Rev Mark Santer,

Bishop of Birmingham, 52; Sir Kenneth Sharp, chartered accountant, 72; Mr Harvey Smith, show-jumper, 60; Mr Mark Todd MP, 44; Mr Jim Voight, actor, 50; Sir Edward Stratten Williams QC, former judge, 77.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Charles Macintosh, chemist and inventor of waterproof clothing, 1766; William Ewart Gladstone, statesman, 1809; Vera Mary Brittain, author, pacifist and feminist, 1893; Klaus Emil Julius Fuchs, spy, 1911. Deaths: St Thomas à Becket, murdered 1170; Christina Georgina Rossetti, poet, 1894; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, 1926; The Earl of Stockton (Harold Macmillan), statesman, 1986. On this day: Radio Luxembourg started operating, 1930; the City of London was the subject of a fire-bomb raid, 1940. Today is the Feast Day of St Ebrulf or Ebrulf. St Marcellus Akinetes. St Thomas of Canterbury and St Trophimus of Arles.

The riddle in the words of incarnation

It is the same God that said "Let there be light out of darkness" who has shone in our minds to radiate the light of the knowledge of God's glory, the glory of the face of Christ (2 Corinthians iv, 6)

THE WRITERS of the New Testament were good Jews. They knew that they must not worship idols, lesser "gods" dressed up in the form of animals or human beings. But Jesus posed a problem for them. The only words that seemed to do justice to him came from the Old Testament's descriptions of God. So the first Christians rarely called Jesus "God" directly. But again and again they talked of him in language traditionally reserved for God: as Word or Wisdom, as Saviour as Judge, as Lord. It was as if they were saying not directly, "This man is God"; but rather indirectly, "Here, in the space filled by Jesus, is a space filled completely by God."

Why did they hesitate to speak directly? Today too, some Christians are reluctant to call Jesus "God". The reason, however, is because they are frightened to water down his humanity. We know that Jesus was a real human being, made of flesh and blood like the rest of us. If we call him "divine" we risk turning him into a sort of super-man, or a demi-God, only superficially human. That, quite rightly, is not the sort of thing we believe in nowadays.

The early Jewish Christians hesitated too, but for a different reason. They were afraid, instead, of compromising the divinity of God. God was not

MEANINGS OF CHRISTMAS

MARGARET ATKINS

When God became man it was not in the manner which the Jews were expecting. The problems it threw up are no less tricky for us today

a thing, a created object, but the source of all created things. God could not be limited by time and place. He could not be touched or harmed or changed. He was too holy even to name out loud. Was it not blasphemy to identify almighty God with a mere human being? Yet they found themselves doing just that.

This was not what they had expected of the Messiah. They had been waiting for an inspired prophet, or a powerful king. They received instead someone who pushed their religious language to its limit. They received a man with whom God identified himself. The intangible God allowed himself to be touched, the invisible God allowed himself to be seen, here, in this man Jesus.

But, if this was not what the Jews expected, Christians believe it was the definitive answer to all the half-formed hopes and longings of the Chosen

People. Yet it was the answer not only for the Jews, but also for the dreamers of all the strange religions that the Jews had despised. And it was an answer that was shockingly concrete. The poet Elizabeth Jennings puts it beautifully in her "Meditation on the Nativity":

All gods and goddesses, all looked up to And argued with and threatened... They disappear In fables coming true.

In acts so simple that we are amazed - A woman and a child... Placing prophets talked but here are truths

All men have only praised Before in dreams. Lost legends here are pressed Not so to paper but in flesh and blood, A promise kept...

Painters' perceptions, visionaries' long Torments and silence, blossom here and speak.

Listen, our murmurs are a cradle-song. This was how God kept His promise. He gathered up our fears and our fantasies and replaced them with something simple and solid. This is what God looks like now: a sucking baby, a carpenter sharing a meal with an outcast, a criminal hanging on a cross. This was not what we expected: yet somehow it satisfies: "Here are truths all men have only praised before in dreams."

The whole point is that He was simply a man. The Christians who are afraid of compromising Jesus's humanity are right. God did not identify Himself with one of the anthropomorphic gods or super-heroes of the Homeric myths. God identified Him-

self with an ordinary human being, exceptional only in that he was flawlessly human. In giving us an image of Himself, God also showed us what we ourselves should and could be like.

On the other hand, the Jewish Christians were right. It would have been wrong for us to take upon ourselves the identifying of God with a mere human being. If now we dare to do that, it can only be because God did it first. God has allowed us to use language about this man. God has encouraged us to trust that where we see Jesus, we see God.

In the passage with which I began, St Paul recalls the Old Testament story of Moses coming down from Mount Sinai after speaking with the Lord. His face shone so brightly with God's glory that the Israelites could not bear to look at it. Yet, St Paul argued, that glory inevitably faded. Now, however, God has allowed Christians to see that same glory in Christ, the image of God.

Paul's language is daring. Yet it is also circumspect: we do not see God directly; we see the light of His glory reflected in Christ's face. This time, the glory does not fade: the gift has been given in permanent and concrete form. The legends have become a biography; and the visionary artists paint the everyday human scenes of childbirth, of a meal, of a death. God has allowed Himself to be defined in a mortal life. We see His glory in a human face.

Margaret Atkins lectures in theology at Trinity & All Saints College, Leeds

HEALTH

In our rat-race society a good night's rest is regarded as wimpish. But such an attitude can be fatal. By Liz Bestic

Sleep perchance to do more

If you're feeling really snuggly for making your New Year's resolutions to cut out sugar and go to the gym three times a week, stop. Sleep researchers in the United States say that if you really want to improve the quality of your life, your best resolution for 1999 is to get more sleep.

"We are living in a sleep-deprived society and unless we redress the balance and take sleep seriously, society will suffer the consequences in lost hours at work and death on the roads," says Professor Jim Maas, author of *Miracle Sleep Cure*, that promises the key to a long life of peak performance. Maas says that in the past 20 years we have added about 188 hours to our annual working and commuting time - equal to a full month of working hours.

Ad young mothers with children have added an astonishing 241 hours to their work and commuting schedules since the 1960s. "We now live in a 24-hour society, a rat race where sleep is totally undervalued," says Maas. "With heavy demands of work, household chores, parenting and family responsibilities, plus a need for life outside work, four out of every 10 of us are cutting back on sleep to gain time for other things which seem more important or interesting."

Maas believes that - not on are we making ourselves sick through lack of sleep - but were biologically ill prepared to function on minimal sleep, and that our prehistoric genetic blueprint for sleep has not evolved fast enough to keep up with the pace of 20th-century society. "In this brave new world, people who sleep six hours or less are regarded as being tough, competitive and ambitious. But, if you dare to sleep, you need more sleep or, heaven forbid, you're tired, you're the risk of being seen as someone who lacks what it takes to be successful."

And yet all the research shows that people are chronically tired. Even a survey done in this country by Sleep Council researchers found 62 per cent of people are getting fewer hours sleep now than five years ago. "The pace of life is becoming faster and harder, and the stresses and pressures of work are leading to longer working hours and disrupted sleep. If people are deprived of one or two hours of sleep every night over years and years of a lifetime - that takes its toll," says Maas.

But why do we need all this sleep? Surely if Margaret Thatcher could get by on four hours a night anyone can? But,

says Maas, research shows that humans are more likely to need an average of 10 hours a night. "In the sleep lab, people who average eight hours a night - who maintain they are fully alert during the day - and who then get an extra hour's sleep at night, find their productivity levels increase by 25 per cent. I'm not saying that everyone needs to get 10 hours a night, but if you go to bed just one hour earlier at night you will notice a significant difference," he says.

Sleep restores, rejuvenates and energises the body and brain. The third of your life that you spend asleep has profound effects on the other two thirds of your life in terms of alertness, energy, mood memory and performance. The brain tires itself out during waking hours and needs sleep to recover. People who - by choice or because of

In this brave new world, people who sleep six hours or less are regarded as being tough, competitive and ambitious

work, illness or force of circumstance - go without sleep for five to ten days become irrational, paranoid, confused and even hallucinatory.

Dr Adrian Williams - consultant physician at the sleep disorders centre at St Thomas's hospital and author of *Doctor I Can't Sleep* - believes that the Brits may be just as sleep deprived as their American counterparts. "We should be taking sleep deprivation much more seriously and getting people to understand the positive aspects of good quality sleep. People need to be aware that instead of doing things which interfere with sleep - such as smoking, drinking and taking stimulants - they should take time in the evening to wind down and go to bed earlier."

It is not just lack of sleep which causes daytime tiredness either. "Anyone who lives with a snoring partner will suffer from the same sort of sleep deprivation as the person not going to bed early enough," says Dr Williams. "However, you don't need to catch up on your sleep all in one go. There is a natural period of sleepiness in the afternoon when it is extremely easy to fall asleep. By taking a nap then you don't have

to have as much sleep at night."

The Americans have long been great proponents of "power napping". Indeed some US companies which have set up "nap rooms" claim to be reaping the rewards with a workforce that is more alert, has faster reaction times, and is better at problem solving, and these firms report increased creativity. Professor Maas recommends a power nap about eight hours after you get up. "Even just closing your eyes for 10 to 15 minutes can make all the difference to your performance for the rest of the day," he says.

So how can we tell if we are getting the right amount of sleep? US sleep researchers use the Multiple Sleep Latency Test (MSLT). The rationale behind the MSLT is that the more sleep starved you are, the faster you fall asleep during the day. To take the test you lie in a darkened room for 20 minutes, or until your brainwaves show you have entered light sleep - which ever is sooner. The test is done four or five times a day and an average score reached. If it takes 10 minutes or longer to fall asleep then there is no need to worry. Anything less indicates moderate sleep deprivation. Research shows that just an extra couple of hours of sleep at night can make you more alert.

According to Maas each of us maintains a personal sleep bank account. We need enough sleep in that account to be able to function properly during the day. "Most people need to deposit at least eight hours of sleep in their account to cancel the sleep debt incurred by 16 hours of continuous alertness," he says.

Maas maintains that by far the majority of us are significantly sleep deprived, yet remain totally ignorant of how much it affects our mood, performance and behaviour. "We feel alert when we are engaged in vigorous, interesting and challenging tasks. But it only takes a warm room or a dull meeting or lecture to send the truly sleep-deprived person dozing straight off," he says.

Perhaps the most severely affected of all sleep-deprived people are parents with new babies and toddlers. Sometimes their sleep debt seems insurmountable. "A new baby will result in 400 to 750 hours of sleep loss in the first year. Most parents of newborn babies are walking zombies, and it takes a couple of years to make good the sleep debt," says Maas.

Professor Jim Horne, director of Loughborough University's Sleep Lab remains sceptical about the American



Parents of new-born babies lose about 400 to 750 hours of sleep in the first year

Colorific

research. He argues that we can all function fine on between six and eight hours sleep a night. Indeed, he believes that if we sleep too much we get "sleep fat" - just as when we over eat we put on weight. But what he does agree on is napping. "Humans are designed for two sleeps a day - one at night,

and a small one in the afternoon. This explains why people in summer climates have an afternoon siesta and why the rest of us feel sleepy in the afternoon," he says.

"People who increase their night-time sleep find that this afternoon 'dip' disappears." In the meantime Professor Maas

is determined to spread the word out that we all need more sleep. "People say there are not enough hours in the day to take care of the kids, do the shopping, clean the house, have leisure time and go to work. I say that's baloney. If you meet your individual sleep requirement you will be more efficient, more effective, more dynamic and in such a better mood that you will take less time to do a lot more."

"Miracle Sleep Cure" by James B Maas, Thorsons, £7.99. "Doctor I Can't Sleep" by Dr Adrian Williams, Amberwood Publishing, £2.99.

Espresso to insomnia

I have heard that both coffee and tea have caffeine in them. Why is it that coffee that keeps me awake at night?

A cup of coffee has about 75mg of caffeine and a cup of tea has about 30mg. Cola drinks fall in between coffee and tea, with about 50mg of caffeine. Caffeine is a stimulant, and its effect, like most drugs, depends on the dose. A cup of espresso can be very effective at ruining a good night's sleep by providing a whopping 50mg of caffeine. Recent research has revealed another, unexpected effect of too much caffeine. Pregnant women who have more than 150mg of caffeine a day are more likely to miscarry than those who have less than that amount, and more likely to have a baby who will be overweight at birth.

Because of developing arthritis I have started taking glucosamine. The recommended dose is 820mg a day. But I have heard that a dose of 200mg is more effective. Which is correct? There have been at least eight scientific studies of glucosamine over the last 20 years. Most of them have used doses of 1,500mg a day. The results of these show that glucosamine appears to be beneficial in reducing pain and tenderness in arthritic joints. Some of the

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

studies have compared glucosamine with ibuprofen (a widely used painkiller available without prescription). These have shown the two drugs to be similar in their effectiveness for arthritis symptoms. There do not seem to be many reports of serious side effects from glucosamine, but some people do experience stomach pains, heartburn, diarrhoea and nausea. One possible problem with glucosamine is that it is sold as a food supplement, rather than a licensed drug, and so it is difficult to be certain about its purity.

What effect will a vasectomy have on a man's sexual enjoyment and performance? When a vasectomy is performed the tubes that carry sperm from

the testicles to the penis are cut, so no sperm is present in a man's semen after a vasectomy. (It may take several weeks for sperm to disappear from the semen, so it is important to have several semen analyses before relying on a vasectomy for contraception.) But the absence of sperm in the semen does not interfere with sexual enjoyment or performance. Semen is mostly made up of secretions from the prostate gland and seminal vesicles, and a vasectomy does not affect these secretions. So the amount of semen that is ejaculated is not reduced and the sensations of orgasm and ejaculation are not impaired. Once the discomfort of the vasectomy operation is over, sexual performance and enjoyment should return to normal levels. Indeed, some men find that sex is better after a vasectomy because the risk of pregnancy is removed. The risk of passing on or catching sexually-transmitted diseases, however, is not affected by a vasectomy.

Please send questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier cannot respond personally to questions

Fighting social phobias

Drugs and DIY software can help, reports Roger Dobson

JANUARY SALES can be a real problem for Vivian Birch. On a bad day her social phobia is so severe she can't answer the phone, and even the prospect of talking to shop assistants or of travelling on public transport terrifies her. "Sometimes I'm so frightened of even the phone that I can't bear the noise it makes, and I have nightmares where the phone is walking up the stairs to strangle me in bed. Now I have an answer-phone which I use on a bad day so there is no chance of me having to talk to a stranger," says 29-year-old Vivian.

She is one of an increasing number of people suffering with social phobia, or extreme shyness. It's a problem that peaks at this time with the pressures of New Year parties, office dos, eating out, and other social occasions. For millions of people shyness like this is a chronic problem that can wreck lives, ruin any chance of a relationship and even lead to suicide. Some psychologists believe that the problem is increasing as people lose their social skills in an age of telephone-banking, automatic checkouts and tele-working.

"These days you exchange information and not emotions. There is no sentiment, no face-to-face contact, no small talk, and some kids would rather play computer games than play with real live friends," says Professor Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University in the US, a leading authority on shyness.

Social phobia is described by the American Psychiatric Association as a pronounced and persistent fear of social or performance situations in which embarrassment may occur, and it is estimated there are around two million social phobics in Britain alone. Sufferers experience a range of symptoms that can include mutism and other speech problems, low self-esteem, social anxiety, loneliness, uncontrollable blushing, physical shaking, and extreme difficulties in forming relationships.

Nature and nurture, genes as well as social conditioning, are thought to play a part, and one research team working with twins reared apart, found around one in six of the population are born with a predisposition to shyness, although most shyness is thought to be acquired in early childhood.

"Over the past 10 years shyness has been increasing at the rate of around one per cent a year until now it is about 50 per cent which suggests there is something significant happening in our society which is increasing the level of shyness," says Zimbardo.

Vivian Birch, whose responses to socially phobic situations include mutism, dizziness and nausea, has tried a number of different therapies to ease her problems. She is currently taking Seroquel for the depression that is an integral part of social phobia for one in three sufferers. The same type of formulation has been described as an

anti-shyness pill, and increasing numbers of similar drugs are on the market or in development.

"Since January I have been taking Seroquel. I am finding it very helpful and it has made quite a difference to me. I don't see anything wrong with a drug for social phobia if it gets people to a stage where they can tackle the problem," she says.

Another new treatment for social phobia, computer-based psychological therapy, is being pioneered by The Maudsley Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

The computer programme, Fear Fighter, that Professor Isaac Marks and his team have produced, involves half-a-dozen one-hour sessions which show the patient how to use exposure therapy to confront his or her fear.

"The essence of our programme is about self-treatment. The types of homework that could be set for social phobia might be for them to ask someone the time at a bus stop, or to engage a stranger in conversation for one minute," says Professor Marks. The Maudsley programme has been used by 90 patients, a third of them social phobics. The results are expected to conclude that it is as successful as face-to-face therapy.

The Maudsley self-care clinic is on 0171 919 3365, and the Phobias Society runs a self-help network, telephone 0161 881 1937.

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

I HAVE invented a new diet and I am launching it today to a waiting world - free, gratis and for nothing. I have called it the Wet and Dry diet, and I guarantee that if you follow it for three months you will find your bathroom scales pointing in the right direction.

The principle of the Wet and Dry diet is simple: you may not eat wet and dry foods at the same time. That's all there is to it. You may eat anything you like, in any quantity, so long as you obey this basic rule.

It means that you may not eat breakfast cereals (dry) with milk (wet). Nor may you accompany pasta (dry) with sauce (wet), although grated Parmesan is acceptable. Meat (dry) may not be accompanied by gravy (wet) but may be eaten with vegetables or potatoes, unless these are mashed or pureed. You get the idea.

Every reader will need to devise their own additional rules for this diet. A science-minded colleague suggested a banana could be both wet (when mashed) and dry (when whole). Shepherds pie combines meat (dry) and gravy (wet). But it is acceptable because the ingredients are combined at the cooking stage and not at the table.

The point of this diet is to make eating difficult, it is the unacknowledged principle behind most diets. An equally effective diet would be one that forbade combining red and green food, or that required you to stand on your head while eating. This inconvenient fact will not prevent millions of people turning to hookshops and self-help groups in the New Year in search of a new idea for losing weight.

We have already had the Hay Diet, the Scarsdale Diet and the F-plan Diet, plus many more. Stand by for the 1,2,3, Success 2000 Diet from Weight Watchers to be launched next week.

Jane Dunkeld, author of the *Good Diet Guide*, pours scorn on these diets in the January issue of *Positive Health*, the complementary medicine magazine. She says that much of the advice is contradictory, and hence confusing. For example *System S*, by Sally Ann Voak and Professor Anne de Looy, promised dieters they need not cut out sugar while *Sugar Busters*, by H Leighton Steward, claimed sugar was worse than fat.

Dr Dunkeld writes that whether you follow a high or low protein, high or low carbohydrate or high or low sugar diet makes no difference to losing weight. "All that matters is the caloric content."

Scientifically she is correct, but humans tend not to obey the laws of science too strictly, especially where their appetites are concerned.

The more helpful advice is to follow whichever diet helps you cut your calorie intake most effectively.

S.A.D.?
SAD is Seasonal Affective Disorder or Winter Depression. For an information pack on SAD and details of the S.A.D. self-help programme, please get in touch with the S.A.D. self-help network, telephone 0161 881 1937.

1999 looks like being a tremendous year for those who appreciate art with their senses. By Tom Lubbock

Flesh, fabric, sex and money

A good year ahead, it looks, happily free of *fin de siècle* or millennial anticipations. A good start at least – and some of the best of it starts soon. In a month's time *Portraits by Ingres: Image of an Epoch* opens at the National Gallery. It wasn't so many years ago that Ingres was a byword for the sick and the square, a patron saint of academic painting. But lately he's enjoyed a reversal of critical fortune. Now he looks like a tremendous perve and weirdo – very much our cup of tea – and never more so than in his portraits, especially those of women.

In Ingres' hands, these high-bourgeois ladies become soft, human fillets. Their bodies are manipulated into extreme rearrangements, distortions which are only just covered by the exquisite skin painting and the opulent fields of frock. Formal affirmations of affluence and status they may be, or be meant to be. But the result is a fusion of economic and sensual luxury, swoony erotic *mélanges* of flesh and fabric, money and sex in perfect harmony. His drawings are triumphs of the art.

There's danger in this sort of advance publicity, of course. It just makes things worse for everyone. It was nine years ago that the Royal Academy put on *Monet in the 90s* – a show so well attended that the main thing it offered the visitor was the chance to study crowd movements in a confined space. I dare say *Monet in the 20th Century* will go much the same way.

The surprise, perhaps, is that there's a show there at all – a 19th Century painter, surely? But no, Monet lived until 1926. He worked on, his vision so disturbed by cataracts that sometimes he had to rely on the labels on his paint-tubes, and pursued his own course, hardly influenced by contemporary developments. But in his pictures of the gardens and ponds at Giverny, he created as strange a painting-world as any of the younger modern artists. You may just catch a glimpse of it.

You'll soon be hearing so much about Neurotic Realism that I won't say much here. It's Charles Saatchi's brand new made-up art movement, a slogan coined to promote his recent purchases now that the Young British Artist label has done its job. It seems a highly ridiculous gambit, and will doubtless prosper. The first installment goes on show at the Saatchi Gallery in January.

The career of Patrick Caulfield demonstrates the dispensability of labels. Once he was called a Pop artist. Now it's a little hard even to

see why. His retrospective at the Hayward Gallery will reveal a virtuoso of many paintings styles, though I think the Sixties pictures are still the real knockouts – the steady black outlines filled with luminous panes of colour, the colouring-in book principle turned to startling levels of beauty and intelligence.

Other February openings include a retrospective of John Everett Millais, the sanest Pre-Raphaelite, at the National Portrait Gallery, and a chance to see the drawings of an artist who always denied doing any in Francis Bacon: *Works on Paper and Paintings* at the Tate in London. Meanwhile at the Tate in Liverpool there's *Richard Deacon: New World Order* – new work by one of the leading British sculptors of the 1980s. Rather pompous collages of industrial stuffs they always seemed to me, but what it looks like now I don't know.

By far the most interesting spring prospect is the London Tate's Jackson Pollock retrospective. This is good macro-timing. The wild hero of Abstract Expressionism, "Jack the Dripper", the first star of US painting, died in 1956. A generation has grown up for whom Pollock's name is a legend, but his work almost unknown. To be honest, I've hardly looked at it myself, partly put off by the existential Davey Crockett image. But now one expects the legend to fall away and something rather beautiful and old mastery to shine through. Or will it be something flash and skimpy? Whatever, we'll be seeing – and being – posterity at work.

May brings *Examining Pictures* at the Whitechapel, a survey of the expanded field of contemporary painting – a good subject, and a show which one can predict pretty confidently will have a new and snappier title by the time it opens. I mean, they must want somebody to go to it. And at the Barbican there's *New Art for a New Era: Kasimir Malevich's Vision of the Russian Avant-Garde*, another good topic, marking a rare, brief moment of collaboration between an artistic and a political revolution, and another title in need of a little fine tuning.



'Madame de Senonnes' by Ingres: exquisite skin painting and opulent fields of frock

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Nantes

The self-portraits of Rembrandt need no advertisement. They've become the great pictorial statements of honesty and mortality, of the human depths. They stand among the top icons of humanity itself, the sort of thing we'd like to send off into outer space, to show the ETs what a wonderful species we are – except that the ETs might not like oil painting or share our admiration for candour. But for those who do, there's *Rembrandt by Himself* at the National: 40 painted self-portraits, plus drawings and etchings too. It looks like being a good year in

particular for the painter Gary Hume. Born in 1962, he's the UK representative at the '99 Venice Biennale in June, and he's the subject of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art's Edinburgh Festival show. His pictures – in which simple images are translated into flat shapes painted in funny colours – often seem very good, but I've never quite worked out what their trick is. It's something to do with being enigmatic but completely casual.

Hints for the second half of the year must inevitably be sparser and vaguer, anyway, you'll have forgotten

them. Two rather interesting-looking, similar-sounding group things, both absurdly titled, emanate from the Tate Gallery. In London there's *Abstraction: International Contemporary Art*, opening in August – a foretaste, I guess, of the kind of show that the Tate Gallery of Modern Art, opening next year at Bankside, will be doing much more of. Then in Liverpool there's *Trace: The 1999 Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art*, which will "explore place, memory, materiality and mapping" (good grief). But no, it's very nice to have a Biennial on British soil, though with the world

so widely tipped to end the following year, the word is perhaps a little hubristic. The Turner Prize will still be there too.

Autumn brings a big Van Dyck show at the Royal Academy. He's not a painter I've ever got much of a kick out of – how much better if it was a big Rubens show – but it promises plenty of religious and mythological pictures as well as his popular Stuart portraiture.

Two Italian avant-gardists command the stage in October. At the Hayward Gallery there's a Lucio Fontana retrospective, the artist whose signature work is a blank, raw canvass, neatly slashed. At the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford there's *Michelangelo Pistoletto: The Shifting Perspective*, a homage to one of the founders of *arte povera*, and an artist whose activities are too various for any summary. In November, the London Tate shows *Bloomsbury: Roger Fry, Vanessa Bell & Duncan Grant*, an exhibition of the visual wing of the famous Group, which will demonstrate, beyond a doubt, that you can be a highly advanced, ahead-of-the-game artist, and absolutely no good at all. Please, you have my word for it.

1999 – THE MAJOR EXHIBITIONS

Monet in the 20th Century
Royal Academy, London
23 Jan-18 April
Portraits by Ingres
National Gallery, London
27 Jan-25 May
Patrick Caulfield
Hayward Gallery, London

4 Feb-11 May
Jackson Pollock
Tate Gallery, London 1
1 March-6 June
Rembrandt by Himself
National Gallery 9 June-5 Sept
Gary Hume: New Paintings
Scottish National Gallery

of Modern Art 11 Aug-17 Oct
Van Dyck
Royal Academy 11 Sept-3 Dec
Trace: The 1999 Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art
Tate Gallery, Liverpool
25 Sept-7 Nov

Michelangelo Pistoletto
Museum of Modern Art, Oxford
17 Oct-2 Jan 2000
Bloomsbury: Roger Fry, Vanessa Bell & Duncan Grant
Tate, London
4 Nov-30 Jan 2000

Too many bad fairies

A PUZZLE: the musicians playing Prokofiev's *Cinderella* for the Royal Ballet at the Festival Hall are billed as "the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House". But so are those busy on the same evenings performing operas by Smetana or Rimsky-Korsakov at Sadler's Wells. Has somebody in the Covent Garden organisation solved the problem of being in two places at once? Or are some audiences being fobbed off with substitutes?

Whatever the answer (and we can all make a wicked guess), the Royal Ballet's music director Andrea Quin conducts Prokofiev's score with every appearance of loving it: we get beautiful tempi, even if the tone of the orchestra is not always ideal. At the performance I saw, she stayed at the end to applaud the dancers, including Sara Wildor's debut in the title part.

This suits Wildor a lot better than her other recent new roles, largely because one of her best gifts is bringing out the meaning and emotion of what

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET:
CINDERELLA
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

she is playing, and Frederick Ashton's choreography is rich in those qualities (something not all Wildor's colleagues seem to notice). It would help if she could find a more defining make-up for the middle act, where the lighting and her blue costume, together with her own pale colouring, hold back her expressions from carrying. With her lovely big eyes and even lovelier, bigger smile, this is a pity.

She headed a cast in which some of the other soloists also were an improvement on their recent predecessors. Peter Abegglen and Alastair Marriott kept their humour lively as the step-sisters without going over the top (which is more than could be said of their reluctant suitors at the ball). Jonathan Howells, a sur-

prisingly tall choice for the jester, danced his many solos with plenty of vim, bounce and brilliance, and made a welcome attempt to restore some of the characterisation too often missing from that role.

This being a reason of goodwill, let me pass silently over those cast members who fall into the trap of playing this ballet as if it were a Christmas panto, and let me hope quietly that one day we shall again see the long sequence of solos and ensembles for the fairies of the seasons danced with the clarity, warmth and style we used to take for granted.

Meanwhile, rejoice that the corps de ballet of evening stars who accompany them show attractive cohesion and zest, and obviously relish those moments when they explode into centre stage and hold it for their own moments of swift, dipping, stretching, circling glory. Now that's what the whole of this potentially beautiful and much loved ballet ought to look like.

JOHN PERCIVAL



Alastair Marriott as a lively ugly sister Laurie Lewis

Beware flying willow

CLASSICAL

NEW LONDON CONSORT
OEH, LONDON

MISSIONARY ZEAL and secular violence may have spread the Christian message throughout the medieval world, yet old pagan habits proved remarkably resistant to change. The Roman feasts of Lupercalia and Saturnalia were transformed into church celebrations of the Nativity and Christmas, while dancing, drinking and healthy self-indulgence remained a feature of the new holy days.

Philip Pickett's *Nativitas* programme offered a rich slice of medieval Christmas life, its ingredients ranging from pious songs to the Virgin to a slapstick mummings' play and wild instrumental numbers.

The concert's emotional content was equally diverse, counterbalancing groups of serious and contemplative pieces with ancient pop tunes and folk-dance to evoke genuine feelings of melancholy and mirth.

Christmas inspired a wealth of popular tunes and performing traditions, from which Pickett extracted around two dozen examples. The QEH's lights were dimmed for a semi-staged

account of the Rouen *Officium Pastorum*, complete with Virgin and child, a candlelit procession and subtle additions to the plainchant of symphony and organ drones. Simon Grant's delivery of the verses in *Pax in terris nunciatur* and again in the deeply moving narrative carol *Als I lay on Yodis night* might stand as a model for the performance of medieval song, his unfurled yet powerful projection conditioned by the mood of the text and responsive to the sense of individual words. The various permutations of ensemble voices managed skilfully to balance the demands of choral blend against the need to inflect and project the text, a trick that overcame the potential blandness of the first-half group of polyphonic conducts.

Since early music became a serious business in the 1980s,

much of the fun once associated with its revivals has been replaced by the o faces of performers desperately seeking inclusion in the mainstream. The New London consort, now a fixture of its musical establishment, has never lost touch with the pioneering spirit of characters such as David Munrow, nor with the folk bands who dipped into the medieval past for inspiration.

The second half of the *Nativitas* programme ran from Walter Frye's sublime three-part *Ave regina* setting to the shenanigans of a St Nicholas' Day mummings' play enacted with vigour by Albin Morris. The loudest laughs from the stalls presumably came from insurance brokers glib at the prospect of seismographic replica instruments damaged by willow-branch raptures, although the stick-wielding antics of a Marty Feldon look-alike (decked out as St George) were sufficiently bizarre to amuse even the most festive among the capacity audience.

ANDREW STUART

INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S
GUIDE TO
CONTEMPORARY ART
THIS WEEK:
MARCUS RICHARDS

MARCUS RICHARDS was the only British artist out of 3,587 entrants from 92 countries whose work was accepted for Japan's Osaka Triennale exhibition, this year devoted to sculpture. His 7ft by 4ft *Full Circle*, shown here, was awarded the silver prize.

Richards, 42, is a part-time tutor at the Byam Shaw School of Art, London, and has his own studio in Bow.

He says: "International and national opens are the only available showcases for artists who are not represented by galleries. But reluctance by gallery owners and curators to recognise their importance perpetuates the incestuous dominance of commercial over cultural values. This is short-termism – as history will prove."

The paradox of references triggered by his *Full Circle*, with strips of beech wood upholstered on top with black studded vinyl, not unlike a giant computer mouse, gave one of the five Osaka judges a sleepless night. Yaguchi Kunio, chief curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, admitted to Richards: "At first, I thought it was a piece of Swedish furniture and rejected it. But that night I could not get it out of my mind and could not sleep. I looked at it again and had to accept it."

Richards says: "I enjoy perversity and humour. That is the point of access to my sculptures. They all have the feeling that they could exist in a domestic setting – and they all have to do with the way we want to possess things. I come from a poor background; we did not have a computer, but we did have furniture."

His prize money of £22,000 has been used, in accordance with the tradition in Osaka, to purchase his sculpture, which is now in the permanent collection of Osaka's Contemporary Art and Culture Centre.

Richards' other sculptures include the 7ft-long *Rockier*, in wood and ceramic tiles, resembling an outside electrical switch, and the 8ft-long *Prototype 02*, in wood and fibreglass, which could be mistaken for a not very handy TV remote. Prices from £2,000.

Marcus Richards, 1171-336 0593; Osaka Triennale Bureau, 0081-6-4477954



'Full Circle'

MEDIA

AFTER THE CULL: WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE 26 EDITORS WHO LEFT THEIR JOBS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

												
NAME Richard Addis	NAME David Banks	NAME Paddy Chapman	NAME Sue Douglas	NAME Jonathan Holborow	NAME Len Gould	NAME Ian Hargreaves	NAME Stuart Higgins	NAME Tessa Hinton	NAME Brian Hitchen	NAME Jonathan Holborow	NAME Will Hutton	NAME Ian Jack
PAPER The Express (1996-98)	PAPER The Daily Mirror (1992-94)	PAPER News of the World (1988-94)	PAPER Sunday Express (1996)	PAPER The Observer (1993-95)	PAPER The People (1996-97)	PAPER The Independent (1994-96)	PAPER The Sun (1994-98)	PAPER Sunday Mirror (1994-96)	PAPER Sunday Express (1994-96)	PAPER Mail on Sunday (1992-98)	PAPER The Observer (1996-98)	PAPER Independent on Sunday (1992-95)
WHY THEY LEFT Forced out to make way for Rosie Boycott	WHY THEY LEFT Harmoniously kicked upstairs	WHY THEY LEFT Eight months off, then resigned for health reasons	WHY THEY LEFT Forced out when Sunday merged with Daily Express	WHY THEY LEFT Resigned as sales continued to slide	WHY THEY LEFT Moved to create new 'Sporting Life', resigned in frustration	WHY THEY LEFT Resigned ahead of planned job cuts	WHY THEY LEFT Forced out to make way for David Yelland	WHY THEY LEFT Seen off by her managing director Bridget Rowe	WHY THEY LEFT Pushed out to make way for Sue Douglas	WHY THEY LEFT Fell foul of Associated's new editor-in-chief Paul Dacre	WHY THEY LEFT Kicked upstairs after precipitous decline in sales	WHY THEY LEFT Resigned to become editor of Granta
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Own company working on project for Mail on Sunday	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? About to start as new breakfast show host on Talk Radio	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Studying for a history degree	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Consultant editor to Scotsman Publications	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Editor of The South China Morning Post in Hong Kong	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Associate Sports Editor on The Independent	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Professor of Journalism at Cardiff University, and freelance writer	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Media relations adviser to celebrities	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Editor of Daily Mail's Weekend Magazine	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Media relations consultant and broadcaster	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? From January Conservative Party's political operations consultant	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Editor-in-chief of The Observer, columnist and economic pundit	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Editor of Granta and columnist on The Independent
												
NAME Andrew Jaspas	NAME Sir Nick Lloyd	NAME Kelvin MacKenzie	NAME Andrew Marr	NAME Andrew Neil	NAME Brendan Parsons	NAME Eve Pollard	NAME Peter Preston	NAME Bridget Rowe	NAME Stewart Steven	NAME Andreas Whitam Smith	NAME Phil Walker	NAME Peter Wilby
PAPER The Observer (1995-96)	PAPER Daily Express (1986-95)	PAPER The Sun (1981-94)	PAPER The Independent (1996-98)	PAPER The Sunday Times (1983-94)	PAPER The People (1992-94)	PAPER Sunday Express (1991-94)	PAPER The Guardian (1975-95)	PAPER Sunday Mirror & The People (1992-94)	PAPER Evening Standard (1992-96)	PAPER The Independent (1986-94)	PAPER The Star (1994-98)	PAPER Independent on Sunday (1995-96)
WHY THEY LEFT Sacked for alienating staff without ending sales slide	WHY THEY LEFT Resigned when proprietor in discussions with replacement	WHY THEY LEFT Seduced by job at EMI, then lapsed less than a year	WHY THEY LEFT Sacked for refusing to implement job cuts	WHY THEY LEFT Seduced by non-existent US television job	WHY THEY LEFT Went on 'compassionate leave'	WHY THEY LEFT Resigned amid rumours of falling out with proprietor	WHY THEY LEFT Resigned to become editor-in-chief of Guardian	WHY THEY LEFT Lost power struggle with Kelvin MacKenzie	WHY THEY LEFT Retired to make way for Max Hastings	WHY THEY LEFT Became director of company after change in ownership	WHY THEY LEFT Quit rather than implement savage job cuts	WHY THEY LEFT Forced out to make way for Rosie Boycott
WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Editor of soon to be launched Scottish Sunday paper	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Breakfast show on LBC radio in London and runs own PR company	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Chairman of TalkCo, the consortium that bought Talk Radio for £15m	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Columnist on Express and Observer, consultant to Lord Hollick	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Editor in Chief The Scotsman and Sunday Business	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? In charge of special projects for Mirror Group, including Sporting Life	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? TV personality, writes romantic fiction and sits on the English Tourist Board	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Columnist for Observer and Guardian, Novel, The 51st State, just published	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Director of Corporate Communications at National Magazine Co	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Columnist on Mail on Sunday	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? President of the British Board of Film Classification, director of The Independent	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Retired	WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Editor of The New Statesman

Who would be an editor?

Most ambitious young journalists have a simple aim - to edit a national newspaper. But the events of this year may make many pause for thought. For 1998 has seen eight editors leave their posts, usually clearing their offices even before the triumphant headlines appear in rival papers the next day.

It is always a shock. One day they are omnipotent, courted by politicians and feared by their staff. The next they are bidding farewell to six-figure salaries and chauffeur-driven cars. Increasingly, the job is reminiscent of being a football manager - well-paid, high-profile and increasingly short-lived. Indeed, the number of national newspaper editors departing this year was the same as the number of Premier League managers. In both cases, resignation is usually a euphemism for being sacked.

"Only in football is the pressure to get results so great and the loading of responsibility on one person similar," says Len Gould, the editor of the *Sunday Mirror* from 1996 to 1997. "Like the football manager, you get about six months before the chairman starts issuing statements of confidence."

Eight to depart their newspapers this year are an

eclectic lot, proving that the job is equally as insecure on broadsheets and tabloids. They include people such as Jonathan Holborow at the *Mail on Sunday* and Stuart Higgins at *The Sun*, both of whom were editing market leaders and sitting on seemingly healthy sales.

The others to go were Phil Walker at the *Daily Star*, Andrew Marr at *The Independent*, Richard Addis at *The Express*, Bridget Rowe at the *Sunday Mirror* and Brendan Parsons at the *Sunday People*.

While their redundancy terms mean they are unlikely to end up on the dole, most find it difficult to settle into new jobs quickly. Consultancy seems to be the catch-all phrase that protects ex-editors from the more bumbling experience of working for another editor who was once their equal.

What the events of recent years demonstrate is how the nature of newspaper editing has changed. In the past five years there have been 26 editors who have left their jobs without a better one to go to; most sat in the editor's chair for about two years. Only two of them - Peter Preston of *The Guardian* and Kelvin MacKenzie of *The Sun* - had been edi-

tors before 1990. Sir David English, who died this year, was the only other editor of recent times who could count his tenure in decades.

This marks a significant change from the generation before, when Hugh Cudlipp ran *The Mirror* from 1952 to 1973 and David Astor edited *The Observer* from 1948 to 1975.

Analysts believe the rapid turnover of editors is down to a structural change at the heart of the newspaper business. The industry is in decline, with circulations falling for 15 years. This means a company cannot grow by increasing the size of the overall market - the new customers are not there. Instead, a newspaper can only grow by taking readers from other titles. This means newspapers are just too competitive to allow for long-term security for their editors - unless they are beating the competition.

As a result, proprietors see their struggling titles failing to produce a decent return on investment and keep changing the man in; occasionally, the woman at the top in the hope of finding the one who can turn things around and lure readers from rivals.

Newspapers are, of course, unusual in that the product

bears such a strong imprint of the person at the top. But the changed finances of newspapers also means it is cheaper to change the editor than invest in the paper as a whole.

As newspapers have struggled to hold readers, they have doubled in size over the past 10 years but without a similar increase in cover price. Even with new technology and the de-recognition of trade unions, profits have been squeezed.

This has led, particularly at the Express and Mirror titles, to editors being replaced by people claiming they can do things more cheaply. Conversely, some editors have resigned rather than implement more job cuts.

For the editor who can supply the holy grail of increasing sales, or even just halt decline, the rewards can be considerable. This is even more true when the competition tries to poach the miracle worker. Paul Dacre is believed to be earning more than £850,000 a year. Other editors can expect anything from £200,000 upwards, with substantial share, options, pensions and other perks. Given their shortness of tenure, the key to an editor's wealth might well be his or her exit arrangements. A one-year

contract, which means a six-figure pay-off, should clear all but the most Mandelsonian of mortgages, especially when combined with cashing in the share options and possibly holding on to the company Jag.

But they are unlikely to be driven by money. Star columnists, such as Richard Littlejohn and Lynda Lee-Potter, can earn similar sums without anything like the workload or fear of redundancy. And if they do get sacked, they just move papers. Additionally, columnists get to live and die by their own pen, but many editors will have died because of factors like budgets, which are out of their control. But then, as proprietors

know, there is always someone who wants to step up to bat.

Andrew Marr has columns in two newspapers, but he has also turned himself into a company and is on the board of Lord Hollick's new media venture capital arm and will be presenting a television series next year. "The greatest advantage I find of working for myself is that it is good psychologically," says Marr. "As an editor you do things at second-hand - you hire the right person to do the right job. Now I do everything for myself."

Richard Addis, too, has become a company. His plan is to come up with marketable ideas and be working on a project

for the *Mail on Sunday*. "By creating a company, you can at last build up something that is of value to yourself," he says.

For many of the editors leaving their posts, the other main task is securing a pay-off. This usually requires signing a confidentiality agreement. Those who stay really friendly are those who manage to get kicked upstairs. In this year's crop, Will Hutton became editor-in-chief of *The Observer* and remains a columnist, in spite of the plunge in circulation under his editorship.

The one thing this year's crop of ex-editors has in common is their relative youthfulness. "The days of becoming

editor in your fifties have gone," says Andrew Marr. "Then when you stepped down after years at the top, it was to a well-earned retirement. Now the rapid turnover means the trick is to get right what you do with your life afterwards. Simoo Jenkins is probably the best model of how you manage it."

Jenkins, the editor of *The Times* from 1990 to 1992, now has that most British of careers - he is a member of the great and the good. As well as producing various weekly columns, Jenkins sits on an array of committees covering railways, the environment, historic buildings, world monuments and the Old Vic.

So there is one difference with football managers. Ex-editors rarely end up running their own pub.

'I grin like a maniac but it feels like death'

SACKED, CANNED. Kicked upstairs. Moved sideways. Given a new job. I grin like a maniac but it feels like death. I am grinning like a maniac and trying to swallow a lump the size of a cannonball. I can't hear the silence because somewhere in my head Concorde is taking off. A hundred or more unblinking faces are taking the news of my replacement as editor of *The Mirror* with stoicism bordering on cruelty.

But all I can see is Thatcher's face, as familiar as my own mother's, hunched in her limousine behind rain-spattered windows leaving Number Ten. Her right eye, the one nearest the feasting Press, molten with tears.

That was the moment when she knew what it was to lose the best job on earth, the role she had played since her birthright. Now it is my turn.

The managing director is speaking my name, praising my

time at the top and, in the same breath, introducing my successor. How hard are the mighty fallen!

I feel nauseous as I scan the faces of staff and colleagues for signs of pleasure or triumph or revenge. I see only outrageous sympathy. And I hate it.

A jumble of crazy, angry thoughts spin in my head as I maul-mouth familiar words: "Congratulations... richly deserved... thanks for your work and loyalty... please support him as you did me..."

How long have they gossiped behind my back? Was I the last to know? What will I tell my children?

I inform executives that their new editor will meet with them in an hour's time. They nod. More sympathy. And then they are gone, shuffling back to their desks. The newsroom is ablaze with scarcely suppressed excitement.

Inside my room my secretary bugs and consoles. What will become of her, I wonder?

We both know that Fleet Street editors' secretaries are at least as vulnerable as their bosses.

The journey home isn't the usual riot, either: my driver, Keith, has become a family friend since the first day he called to collect me. He has become indispensable. Errand boy, courier, stand-in father, minder, collector-from-pubs, restaurant guide, driver (in emergencies - she disapproves of such luxuries) of my wife... all for naught. The new editor, we both know, will have his own man in mind.

As it happens, the company is compassionate. Generous redundancy for my secretary, a director for Keith to drive. Indeed, I keep a chauffeur-driven car for three months while I make "other arrangements".

Three months in which the invitations to receptions, premieres, fancy parties, political soirées dry to a trickle.

Three months in which I go from being a power in the land (hopefully for good) with an au-

tomatic "Access All Areas" pass to a "Used-To-Be-But-Isn't-Any-More". Three months in which I rediscover my family, who my friends are, public transport, that nights at the movies aren't always followed by black-tie parties, washing my own car, dinner at home and paying to go to the theatre.

After which I am ready to shrug philosophically - Piers Morgan recently called me "the least bitter former editor" he'd ever met - and carry on.

In the past four years, I'm proud of what I've achieved: persuading Mirror Group that the Internet is a big part of the future; learning the art of broadcasting and using it to the company's benefit; and establishing a group-wide network of internal and external communications.

You see, there is life after editing a national newspaper. But not much!

DAVID BANKS
The author was editor of *The Daily Mirror* from 1992-94

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NEW FILMS

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)

Director: Samira Makhmalbaf
Starring: Massoumeh Naderi, Zahra Naderi
Seventeen-year-old Makhmalbaf's precocious debut re-creates the true-life fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose by a social worker. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, *The Apple* is a luminous missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. *West End: Metro, Renoir*

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Director: Tony Scott
Starring: Will Smith, Gene Hackman
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in a tale of political intrigue. A top-drawer cast weaves in and out of the hi-tech imagery and adrenaline-chase scenes. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road*

THE MIGHTY (PG)

Director: Peter Chelsom
Starring: Sharon Stone, Gillian Anderson
Peter Chelsom's *The Mighty* is a stolid and rather predictable tale of two outcast kids in Cincinnati. Sharon Stone and Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amounts to supporting roles. *West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket*

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Director: Vincent Ward
Starring: Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra
Along comes Christmas, and out comes *What Dreams May Come*, an over-glazed turkey with all the trimmings. Williams sippers as the dead chap who leaves a co-impresario heaven to rescue his suicide-bride (Sciorra) from a Gothic hell. Metaphysical conceals arrive with a heavy dusting of sugar. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to *Babe*, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak anatomical fairytale. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's Hispanic do-gooder. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road*

MULAN (U)

This has it all: pro-active heroine; strong father-daughter relationship; honour; nobility. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. *West End: Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End*

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket*

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in this thrilling drama. *West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. *West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Disney reboots its 1961 heart-warmer in this story of two sisters' efforts to reunite their parents. *West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero*

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. *West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero*

RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with a LA back-dropper, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's luckiest LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. *West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End*

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE THREE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the swooniest romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

Antz (PG)

This computer-animated comedy, voiced by a stellar cast, stars Woody Allen as worker ant "Z", who becomes an unlikely opponent

of the colony's totalitarian regime when he falls in with Princess Bala (Sharon Stone).

My Name is Joe (15)

This solid social-realist drama (right) contains all that one would expect from a Keo Leach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

ANTHONY QUINN

CINEMA
WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) • Baker Street Babes: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) • Piccadilly Circus Hamann: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Slums of Beverly Hills 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS COTTAGE (0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Angel Sharks 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.20pm The El 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Governess 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm La Vie Révélée des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road Babes: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.40pm Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.15pm My Name is Joe 5.30pm, 9.15pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8821) • Barbican The Mighty 3pm, 5.15pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 5.30pm, 8pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square On Connalt la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common Babes: Pig in the City 12.30pm Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 9pm The Mask of Zorro 6.20pm for times The Parent Trap 1pm, 3.30pm The Prince of Egypt 6.20pm for times What Dreams May Come 4.15pm, 9.30pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) • Green Park Dancing at Lughnasa 4.30pm, 9pm The Philadelphia Story 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Casablanca 2pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Elizabeth 1.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm The Mighty 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm My Name is Joe 4.30pm, 9.30pm

CLAPHAM AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) • Elephant & Castle The Mask of Zorro phone for times The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come phone for times

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square Sear and his friends in Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm The Prince of Egypt 1.04pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm My Name is Joe 4.30pm, 9.30pm

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate The Mighty 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.05pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) • Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith Babes: Pig in the City 12.40pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.40pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 6pm, 9pm

METRO (0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (SIB) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Fire 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park Corner/Nightbridge Elizabeth 2.20pm, 6.40pm Fire 4.35pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (0870-902 0407) • Camden Town Babes: Pig in the City 11.45am Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 11.40am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 8.35pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (0870-902 0407) • Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (0870-902 0407) • High Street Kensington Babes: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.55pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Out of Sight 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 4pm The Prince of Egypt 12.00pm, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 7.05pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (0870-902 0407) • Leicester Square The Mask of Zorro 11.40pm, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (0870-902 0407) • Marble Arch Babes: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12.00pm, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm, 9pm

ODEON MEZZANINE (0870-902 0407) • Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Les Misérables 3.30pm, 8.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.50pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (0870-902 0407) • Swiss Cottage Babes: Pig in the City 12.10pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Out of Sight 5.45pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Philadelphia Story 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON WEST END (0870-902 0407) • Leicester Square Babes: Pig in the City 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.45pm

PEPSI WALK CINEMA (0171-494 4153) • Piccadilly Circus Everest 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.05pm T-Rex Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am, 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm

PIAZZA (0870-902 0407) • Piccadilly Circus Antz 1.15pm, 3.30pm Babes: Pig in the City 12.45pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 7.50pm The Truman Show 6pm, 8.30pm

REINOW (0171-837 8402) • Russell Square The Apple (SIB) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm On Connalt la Chanson 3.45pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) • BR/Brickton Antz 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm Babes: Pig in the City 12.25pm, 2.25pm, 4.25pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm The Prince of Egypt 12.00pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm Rush Hour 6.50pm, 9.20pm La Vie Révélée des Anges 4.25pm, 6.55pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) • Baker Street Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Left Luggage 3.40pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) • Angel/Highbury & Islington Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3566) • Belisle Park East City 12.10pm, The Mighty 2.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0870-902 0407) • Queensway Antz 11.30am, 2pm, 4pm Babes: Pig in the City 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm Enemy of the State 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 12.00pm, 3.00pm, 6pm, 9pm Mulan 11am Out of Sight phone for times The Parent Trap phone for times The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm, 8.45pm Rush Hour 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 5.50pm What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.40pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) • Sloane Square Antz 1.15pm Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Out of Sight 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Prince of Egypt 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) • South Kensington Babes: Pig in the City 12.00pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm Elizabeth 2pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Negotiator 9.10pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) • Piccadilly Circus Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Mighty 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm My Name is Joe 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO (0870-907 0716) • Piccadilly Circus Antz 12.20pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm Babes: Pig in the City 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 4.20pm Blade 6.25pm, 9pm The Negotiator 8.30pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.10pm, 8.25pm, 8.35pm, 8.45pm, 8.50pm, 9.00pm, 9.10pm, 9.20pm There's Something About Mary 6.20pm, 9pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) • Leicester Square Babes: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Lethal Weapon 4.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Mulan 11.40pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm

CINEMA
LONDON LOCALS

BARNET (0870-902 0407) • BR/Brickton Babes: Pig in the City 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Lethal Weapon 4.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Mulan 11.40pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm, 8.40pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9.20pm

BRIGHTON (0171-254 6677) • Brighton Dances at Lughnasa (PG) 8.45pm Babes: Pig in the City (U) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA (0171-416 6070) • Riverside Studios (18) 6pm & Elizabeth 8.30pm

WATERSMANS ARTS CENTRE (0171-416 6070) • Watersmans Arts Centre High 11.75am (U) 1.30pm (U) 15) 3.30pm

BRIGHTON (0171-254 6677) • Brighton Dances at Lughnasa (PG) 8.45pm Babes: Pig in the City (U) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm

BRISTOL (0114-907 4191) • Antz (PG) 4pm It's A Wonderful Life (U) 7pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) • If Only (15) 3pm, 6.05pm Moushroom (PG) 3.05pm Elizabeth (15) 6pm, 8.30pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE (01223-504444) • Elizabeth (15) 2pm, 6.45pm My Name is Joe (15) 4.30pm, 9.10pm

CARDIFF (01222-399666) • The Governess (15) 7.30pm

IPSWICH (01473-215544) • Mulan (U) 2.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) (18) 6pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH (01603-622047) • It's A Wonderful Life (U) 2.30pm, 8.15pm There's Something About Mary (15) 5.30pm

CINEMA
REPETOIRY

LONDON (0171-928 3822) • Sling Blade (15) 2.30pm, 6.10pm Mardian Pierce (PG) 6.15pm Ghost Story by MR James 2. Television (W) 7.30pm Fortitude Guest: The White Wilderness (W) 8.45pm Fargo (18) 8.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) • The Spanish Prisoner (PG) 1pm Fire (15) 3.30pm Sliding Doors (15) 6.15pm The Horse Whisperer (PG) 8.45pm

RIO CINEMA Kingsland High Street E8 (0171-254 6677) • Dances at Lughnasa (PG) 8.45pm Babes: Pig in the City (U) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA (0171-416 6070) • Riverside Studios (18) 6pm & Elizabeth 8.30pm

WATERSMANS ARTS CENTRE (0171-416 6070) • Watersmans Arts Centre High 11.75am (U) 1.30pm (U) 15) 3.30pm

BRIGHTON (0171-254 6677) • Brighton Dances at Lughnasa (PG) 8.45pm Babes: Pig in the City (U) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm

BRISTOL (0114-907 4191) • Antz (PG) 4pm It's A Wonderful Life (U) 7pm

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) • If Only (15) 3pm, 6.05pm Moushroom (PG) 3.05pm Elizabeth (15) 6pm, 8.30pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE (01223-504444) • Elizabeth (15) 2pm, 6.45pm My Name is Joe (15) 4.30pm, 9.10pm

CARDIFF (01222-399666) • The Governess (15) 7.30pm

IPSWICH (01473-215544) • Mulan (U) 2.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm The Exorcist (25th Anniversary Release) (18) 6pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH (01603-622047) • It's A Wonderful Life (U) 2.30pm, 8.15pm There's Something About Mary (15) 5.30pm

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. • Seats at all prices • Seats at some prices • Returns only Matinee • [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

ALANIS & EXCURSIONS Michael

TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

(97.5-98.8MHz FM)
7.00 Chris Moyles. 10.00 Scott
1.00 Kevin Greening. 4.00
Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq -
the Evening Session. 10.00 John
Peel. 12.00 The Breakfast.
2.00 Emma B. 4.00 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2

(89-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Mo Dutt. 8.05 Sarah
Kennedy. 10.00 Richard Allinson.
12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex
Lester. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00
Evelyn Glennie's Classics. 8.00
Nigel Ogden. 9.00 The White
Christmas Man. 10.00 Kennedy at
Christmas. 10.30 Bob Harris.
12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 -
4.00 Nicky Home.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Saint-Saens.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Con-
cert.
2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
3.50 The Harmonic Series.
4.00 Mozart Voices.
4.45 Music to Die For.
5.00 A Medieval Christmas.
5.30 Music Rooms.
6.00 Discovering Music with
Leonard Slatkin.
7.00 Cabaret Cocktails.
7.30 Performance on 3. Another
chance to hear nine of the most
memorable concerts of the 1998
BBC Proms season at the Royal
Albert Hall, London. 7. In Prom 71,
given on 10 September, west met
east with magic and mystery.
Valerie Anderson (soprano), BBC
National Chorus and Orchestra of
Wales/Mark Elder, Stravinsky:
Scherzo fantastique. Szymanowski:
Songs of a Fairy Tale Princess.
Debussy: Jeux. Holst: Suite 'The
Planets'. (R)
9.20 Postscript. Peter Holland talks
to ten Shakespeare experts about
the Bard today. 2. 'Shakespeare on
Stage'. Michael Bogdanov from the
English Shakespeare Company and
Mark Ryland of the Globe
theatre discuss 'Henry V'.
3.40 Marjana Lipovsek in Concert.
The distinguished mezzo in a

PICK OF THE DAY

WITH A new president, Andreas
Whitman Smith, and director
James Ferman retiring, change
is under way at
the British Board of Film
Classification. In Censored
(8pm R4) Nick Higham finds
out who the censors are and
how they feel about their work
for most of them, sex on
film quickly becomes a mechan-
ical matter, but violence is

another. The programme doesn't
settle any arguments about
censorship, but it does take
them out of the abstract, giving
them a human, practical face.
The Galton and Simpson
Radio Playhouse (11.30am R4)
has Richard Griffiths (right)
playing a French undertaker in
an exhumed G&S TV script. The
result is distinctly mild.
ROBERT HANKS



recital recorded at the 1998 Vienna
Festival. Marjana Lipovsek (mezzo),
Oleg Masennikov (piano), Clara
Schumann: Three Songs from Op
12. Robert Schumann: Frauenliebe
und -Leben. Musorgsky: The
Nursery.
10.35 The Harmonic Series. 5:
Adrian Jack looks at suspensions.
10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. Six
programmes in which Robert Cush-
man presents a personal view of
musicals, with songs from original
cast recordings - some familiar,
some less well known. 4: 'The
Show is On'. A look at one of the
most intriguing Broadway revues: a
show that drew on the services of
nearly every notable composer in
the golden age of American song-
writing, and the comic talents of
Bert Lahr and Beatrice Lillie as well.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week:
Bizet. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS; The Choice.
9.30 Hancock and Son.
9.45 Serial: Peter Pan and Wendy.
10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS; Nature: A Wolf to the
North.
11.30 The Galton and Simpson
Radio Playhouse. See Pick of the
Day.
12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Full Orchestra.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Secrets.
3.00 NEWS; The Exchange: 0171-
580 4444.
3.30 The Small Ad. (R)
3.45 Angels Bending near the
Earth.
4.00 NEWS; A Good Read.
4.30 Shop Talk.
5.00 PM.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 4 at the Store.
7.00 NEWS; The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. 'Fact v Fiction'.
Mark Lawson looks back at a year
in which the boundaries between
fact and fiction have been ques-
tioned and blurred. In everything
from films like 'The Truman Show'
to the novels of Tom Wolfe and Don
DeLillo and the glut of TV docu-
mentaries, is the old-fashioned idea
of factual authority now collapsing?
7.45 Under One Roof. The second
of three five-part dramatisations
from the Michela Hanson stories,
with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and
Luisa Bradshaw-White (2/5).
8.00 NEWS; Censored. Nick High-
am examines the work of one
Britain's most secretive organisa-
tions - the British Board of Film
Classification, the country's film and
video watchdog. See Pick of the Day.
8.40 In Touch. Peter White with
news for visually impaired people.
9.00 NEWS; Case Notes. 'Obesit-
ty'. Almost everyone puts on a bit
of weight over the holiday. Graham
Easton looks at how much fat is
too much.
9.30 The Choice. Michael Buerk

talks to individuals who have made
life-changing choices, taking them
through the whole process, from
the initial dilemma to living with the
consequences.
10.00 The World Tonight. With Sue
Cameron.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Five
Dahls. 2: 'The Hitchhiker' by Roald
Dahl, read by Tom Hollander. On a
journey to London, a writer and his
hitchhiking passenger get stopped for
spending. Why is the hitchhiker
so sure that the writer will not be
prosecuted?
11.00 The Now Show. Steve Punt
and Hugh Dennis present a cav-
alcade of cutting-edge comedy with
the regular team of Simon Munick,
Jane Bussmann, David Quantick,
Nick Romero and Dan Freedman.
11.30 Talking Pictures.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: The
Restraint of Beasts.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 World News.
5.35 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

9.00 Brian Hayes.

12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Muscular Prose. Nick Cole-
man returns to celebrate the best
of sports writing, beginning with
racing in all its forms. (R)
8.00 The Tuesday Match. Russell
Fuller presents coverage of the
night's football action, including
Chelsea v Manchester United and
Leeds v Wimbledon in the FA Car-
ling Premiership.
10.00 20th-Century Vox - Money
and Wealth. Sybil Ruscoe explores
how changes in money and wealth
over the century have affected
peoples lives, attitudes and expec-
tations.
11.00 Late Night Live. The day's
big stories with Nick Robinson. In-
cluding 11.00 News and finance.
And between 11.30 and 1.00 a
sharp and spirited late-night topical
discussion.
1.00 Up All Night.
4.00 Extra Time. (R)
5.00 - 6.00 A-Z of Entertainment.

CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kel-
ly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Classic
Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 Jamie
Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00
Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00
Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann.
2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals.
3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125.187-126.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.00 Jeremy Clark. 10.00 Russ
Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00
Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest.
10.00 Richard Allen. 1.00 - 6.00
James Merritt.

World Service Radio

(198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsday. 1.30 Discovery.
2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Meridian.
(Live). 3.00 World News. 3.05
World Business Report. 3.15
Sports Roundup. 3.30 On Planet.
4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO

6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen.
9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lor-
raine Kelly. 2.00 Nancy Roberts.
4.00 Peter Dealey. 5.00 The
Sports Zone. 6.00 James Whale.
1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

THE ANNUAL Hastings Premier
starts today at the Cinque Ports
Hotel (01424-439223). Sponsored
by Hastings Borough Council with
support from Oxy UK, it runs
until Thursday week with nine
rounds and just a single rest on
New Year's Day.
The Congress also comprises
other events held at the YMCA, St
Paul's Road, St Leonards. There is
a formidable Challengers, with sev-
eral grandmasters, including at
least Hebben, Arkell, Summer-
scale, Lalic, Glek and Miezis - and
the exceptionally promising Mu-
rugan Thiruchelvam, only just 11;
the fourth World Amateur Cham-
pionship for unrated players; one-
day under-11 and under-16 events
on 2 January, and many more:
while proceedings will only finish
after a weekend tournament on Fri-
day evening/Saturday/Sunday, 8-
10 January.

Over the next week-and-a-half,
I'll be reporting mainly from the bat-
tle front, but will also try to keep up-
to-date on other events in the chess
world. First though, a brief intro-
duction to the Premier line-up.
There are five English players -
Sadler, Miles, Emms, Plaskett and
myself - who I imagine are reason-
ably familiar. I've featured 15-
year-old Russian Ponomarev from
the Ukraine several times recently
which leaves four more.
The two qualifiers from last
year's Challengers are Sergei
Shipov (Russia) rated 2,635 and
Mikhail Saltaev (Uzbekistan).

Although Saltaev is rated "only"
2,525, he was the only player in the
Elista Olympiad to defeat the Israeli
Boris Avrukh - who slaughtered me
and got the gold medal on board 6.
Frenchman Laureot Fressinet,
just 17, is a sensible international
master with a fairly positional style.
Last, but by no means least, there
is the Bosnian Ivan Sokolov from
Sarajevo, though he moved to Hol-
land during the recent war. A truly
formidable player, Ivan tends to
play fairly positionally, but carries
a serious punch.
This is a recent example. If
5.Bxc3 6.Bxc3 Nxe4 7.Qg4! is
strong, Sokolov gradually built up
a powerful attack. If 24.Qg5 Qe5
provides some defence. Instead
24.Qd1! was decisive. At the end
26...gxf6 27.Nxf6 is murder.

Ivan Sokolov v Emir Dizdarevic
Sarajevo 1998
Franco Indian Defence

1. d4 e6 14. f4 Na5
2. c4 Bb4+ 15. Ng3 Nb3
3. Bb2 a5 16. Bc2 Re8
4. Nc3 Nf6 17. Nh5 Nf8
5. e4 d6 18. f5 exd4
6. Bb3 e5 19. Qg4 Ng6
7. a3 Bxc3 20. cxd4 cxd4
8. Bxc3 c5 21. B2 Qe7
9. Ne2 Nc6 22. Bxb3 axb3
10. 0-0 0-0 23. Rxb3 Rb6
11. f3 Nd7 24. Qd1 Ne5
12. Be3 a4 25. Bxd4 Kh8
13. Rb1 Ra6 26. f6 1-0

CREATIVITY

LOKI

MEDIA MOGULS were asked to
commission some alternative
speakers and messages for the
post-prandial slot that ER has
monopolised. Who did they choose?
ER's lookalike, Jeanette Charles,
was a mischievous choice, designed
to confuse suitably sozzled viewers,
sunk into a drunken stupor, as to
which channel they were actually
watching. As was Camilla Parker-
Bowles and her opening line "My fu-
ture husband and I". Mike Gifford,
finding three-headed Cerberus
much more entertaining than Royal
Corgis, broadcasts *Thills of the Un-*
expected on Radio Hades, with Na-
tional Hunt racing over the Styx.
While Susan Tomes would have the
Queen's racehorses tell us how
"racist" she really is.

Nicholas E Gough wants a fruitily
bedecked Julian Clary to deliver the
Queen's Peach, while - A Late Soap
Flash - Tiffany walks into a myste-
rious cloud, enveloping Albert
Square, becoming the Incredible
Shrinking Woman, diminishing in
size with each episode, until she van-
ishes into Grant's dandruff.
John Harvey has a Millennium
Bug preaching of the calm before the
storm. Andrew Duncan has William
Hague on shepherding a lost flock.
Myra Hindley on *Cherishing the*
Young and Gerry Adams on *Arms*
and the Man. Alan Melkiss has Ge-
neral Augusto Pinochio on *Truth*
and Reconciliation, looking back on
20 anni horribili for the Chilean

people, and forwards to his state visit
to Spain next year, in a spirit that the
past can be dead and buried.
Joe Adams's channel features a
liberating nude speech, and as an al-
ternative to a Nativity Play, sex
play with a banana, two walnuts and
a ring doughnut. Paul Turner has a
Yiddish *Jehovah* bemoan his over-
worked *Creation Week*. Mary Flavin
has a grumbling, overworked S
Claus resign in pique. Bruce Bir-
chall's vote went to Burma's An
Yang Su Kyi, who he sees as the
Nelson Mandela of our generation.
She would talk about the precarious
state of human rights in the world.
And so the Bafta for Best Plat-
form for New Voices. And the win-
ners are... Messrs Gifford, Gough
and Melkiss, who hold a *Chambers*
Dictionary of Quotations.
On 31 December a "leap second"
will be added at midnight. All major
clocks in the world will stop for ex-
actly one second. The last minute of
the day will be 61 seconds long.
There will be seven pips, not six, on
the radio. (Why? To re-synchronise
the earth's slowed-down rotation
time with atomic clocks.)
Write to Creativity, The Inde-
pendent, 1 Canada Square, Canary
Wharf, London E14 5DL by 7 Janu-
ary. Prizes of the *Chambers Dictio-*
nary of Quotations for the three
most imaginative, but only two if a
reader wins one for suggesting that
week's theme. Next week: New
Year Resolutions - for other people.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

SKY PREMIER

6.00 Tom and Huck (1995) (54455). 8.00
It's Home for Christmas (1998) (54233).
10.00 That Thing You Do! (1996) (57368).
12.00 The Angel of Pennsylvania Avenue
(1998) (57194). 2.00 It's Home for Christ-
mas (1998) (57368). 4.00 Tom and Huck
(1995) (54455). 6.00 That Thing You Do!
(1996) (57368). 8.00 Dante's Peak (1997)
(57192). See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Error
(1998) (57368). 11.55 Marvin's Room
(1998) (57368). 1.35 The Deliverance of
Elaine (1996) (57368). 3.05 - 6.00 Glory
(1998) (7890006).

SKY MOVIE MAX

6.00 Tom Between Two Lovers (1978)
(19829). 7.30 All the Winters That Have
Been (1997) (7890006). 9.35 Vegas Vac-
ation (1997) (445327). 11.00 The Judge
Steps Out (1989) (57707). 1.00 No More
Baths (1997) (57707). 3.00 Tom Between
Two Lovers (1978) (19829). 5.00 All the Win-
ters That Have Been (1997) (7890006). 7.00
Dracula: Dead and Loving It (1995) (57368).
9.00 Love and Other Catastrophes (1996)
(57368). 10.30 Moscow (1954) (1100).
Boris of Edo (1998) (7890006). 12.30 Her
Dearest (1998) (57707). 2.05 Flash-
point (1997) (57368). 3.40 - 6.00 Every
Nine Seconds (1997) (445327).

SKY CINEMA

4.00 About Mrs Leslie (1954) (710455).
6.00 The Big Sky (1952) (571477). 8.00
The Sniper (1952) (222786). 9.30 Holly-
wood Hall of Fame (1935/58). 10.00 Fran-
zy (1972) (445327). 11.55 Next Stop,
Greenwich Village (1978) (57368). 1.50
None Shall Escape (1944) (57368).
3.00 Next Stop, Greenwich Village (1978)
(57368). 4.00 Next Stop, Greenwich
Village (1978) (57368). 5.00 Close.
FR 3 HOUR
6.45 - 10.15 The Red Lantern (1991)
(771). 10.15 The Red Lantern (1991)
at the V.I. the Stop Cafe (1991) (57368).
10.45 Circle of Friends (1995) (445327).
12.00 Party Girl (1995) (100378). 1.40
The Last Seduction (1994) (57368). 3.30 -
6.00 Joy Luck Club (1993) (445327).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

4.00 Ren Hunts Fishing Adventures
(1993/97). 4.30 Walker's World (1994/98).
5.00 Connections 2 by James Burke
(2002/27). 5.30 Jurassic (1998/45).
6.00 Animal Doctor (1998/45). 6.30
Hammerheads (2003/36). 7.30 Beyond
2000 (1994/36). 10.00 Titanic (1998/45).
12.00 Titanic Discovered (2003/36). 1.00
Anatomy of a Disaster (2003/36). 1.30
The Titanic (1998/45). 12.00 The Easy

PICK OF THE DAY

BEFORE CHRISTMAS they
fought out a draw, and tonight's
Premiership encounter, Chelsea
vs Manchester United (7.30pm
Sky Sports 1) should be just as
committed. Both teams have
such strong squads that even
their subs' benches are filled
with seasoned internationals,
and tonight's result could well
have a bearing on the destination
of the Premiership title.
Pierce Brosnan (right) and
Linda Hamilton try hard in

Roger Donaldson's action
adventure, *Dante's Peak* (8pm
Sky Premier). Taking time out
from 007, Brosnan plays a US
Geological Survey scientist
whose warnings about the
imminent eruption of a volcano
in Washington go unheeded by
the local population. But no
actor, however good, can
compete with the big-budget
lava flow and special effects
which dominate this picture.
JAMES RAMPTON



Riders (1927/01). 1.00 Connections 2 by
James Burke (1995/30). 1.30 Ancient
Warriors (1992/55). 2.00 Close.
SKY ONE
6.00 Games World (1993/23). 8.45
Games World (1993/23). 8.45 Street
Sharks (1998). 9.00 The Simpsons
(1994/3). 9.30 Earthworm Jim (1994/4).
10.00 Hercules - the Legendary Journeys
(1993/8). 11.00 The New Adventures of
Superman (1994/2). The Oprah Winfrey
Show (1994/7). 1.00 Days of Our Lives
(1995/8). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (1995/8).
3.00 Jerry Jones (1997/8). 4.00 Guilty
(1997/8). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
(1998/8). 6.00 Married with Children (1998/8).
6.30 Dream Team (1998/8). 7.00 The Simp-
sons (1998/8). 7.30 The Simpsons (1998/8).
8.00 Speed (1998/8). 8.30 Speed (1998/8).
9.00 When Animals Attack IV (1998/8).
10.00 King of the Hill (1998/8). 10.30 Mar-
ried with Children (1998/8). 11.00 Dream
Team (1998/8). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep
Space Nine (1998/8). 12.30 Highlander
(1998/8). 1.30 - 6.00 Long Play (1998/8).

Wrestling Federation Live Wire (1998). 6.00
Sky Sports Centre (1998/8). 6.30 Inside
Scottish Football (1998/8). 7.30 Ford
Monday Night Football Special: Chelsea vs
Manchester United (1998/8). See Pick of the
Day. 10.15 Sports Centre (1998/8).
10.30 Inside Scottish Football (1998/8).
11.30 Life of the Lions (1998/8). 1.30 Sky
Sports Centre (1998/8). 1.45 Ford Port-
land Special: Chelsea vs Manchester United
(1998/8). 2.15 Scottish Football (1998/8).
4.45-4.50 Sports Centre (1998/8).
SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics (1998/8). 7.30 Sports
Centre (1998/8). 8.45 Racing News
(1998/8). 9.45 Sports Centre (1998/8).
10.00 Fish TV (1998/8). 6.30 Fish TV
(1998/8). 10.00 Motor Sport (1998/8).
1.00 Darts (1998/8). 5.00 World Wind-
sailing (1998/8). 5.30 Fast Track (1998/8).
6.00 Sports Unlimited (1998/8). 7.00
Darts (1998/8). 11.00 Fast Track (1998/8).
11.30 Cricket Australia vs England
(1998/8). 2.00 Second Innings (1998/8).
2.30 - 7.00 Cricket (1998/8).
SKY SPORTS 3
8.00 Cricket South Africa vs West Indies
(1998/8). 8.45 Sports Centre (1998/8).
9.30 Racing News (1998/8). 10.00 Aerobics
- Oz Style (1998/8). 10.30 Monday Night
Football (1998/8). 11.00 Watersports World
(1998/8). 12.00 Aerobics (1998/8). 12.30
Figure Skating (1998/8). 2.00 Ford Monday
Night Football (1998/8). 4.00 Fast Track (1998/8).
4.30 Knockouts of 98 (1998/8). 5.00 World

trials vs England (1998/8). 10.30 Super-
bouts All v Spinks (1998/8). 11.30 Close.
EUROSPORT
7.30 Xtrem Sports Yoz Mag (1998/8). 8.30
Xtrem Sports (1998/8). 9.30 Skiing (1998/8).
10.30 Skiing (1998/8). 11.30 Skiing (1998/8).
12.30 Football (1998/8). 1.30 Motor
Sport (1998/8). 2.00 Tishion (1998/8).
3.30 Alpine Skiing (1998/8). 4.30 Ski Jump-
ing (1998/8). 5.00 Mountain Bike (1998/8).
7.30 Aerobics (1998/8). 8.30 Combat
Sports (1998/8). 9.30 Football (1998/8).
11.30 Football (1998/8). 1.00 Close.
UK GOLD
8.00 Crossroads (1998/8). 7.30 Neigh-
bours (1998/8). 7.55 EastEnders
(1998/8). 8.30 The Bill (1998/8). 9.00
The Bill (1998/8). 9.30 Pride and Prej-
dice (1998/8). 10.30 Angels (1998/8).
11.00 Dallas (1998/8). 11.55 Neighbours
(1998/8). 12.25 EastEnders (1998/8).
1.00 Dallas (1998/8). 2.55 The Bill (1998/8).
3.25 The Bill (1998/8). 3.55 EastEnders
(1998/8). 4.30 Angels (1998/8). 4.55
Films: Carry On Christmas: Carry On Lov-
ing (1973) (2003/36). 4.55 Keeping Up
Appearances (1998/8). 7.55 Ever De-
creasing (1998/8). 8.00 One Foot
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ing Badly (1998/8). 10.20 Bottom
(1998/8). 11.00 The Bill (1998/8). 11.30
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